

Infrared Excesses around Bright White Dwarfs from *Gaia* and *unWISE*. II

SAMUEL LAI (赖民希)^{1,2}, ERIK DENNIHY³, SIYI XU (许偲艺)¹, ATSUKO NITTA¹, SCOT KLEINMAN¹, S.K. LEGGETT¹,
AMY BONSOR⁴, SIMON HODGKIN⁴, ALBERTO REBASSA-MANSER GAS^{5,6} AND LAURA K ROGERS⁴

¹*Gemini Observatory, NSF's NOIRLab, 670 N. A'ohoku Place Hilo, Hawaii, 96720, USA*

²*Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2611, Australia*

³*Gemini Observatory, NSF's NOIRLab, Casilla 603, La Serena, Chile*

⁴*Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0HA, UK*

⁵*Departament de Física, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, c/Esteve Terrades 5, 08860 Castelldefels, Spain*

⁶*Institute for Space Studies of Catalonia, c/Gran Capità 2-4, Edif. Nexur 104, 08034 Barcelona, Spain*

Submitted to ApJ

ABSTRACT

Infrared excesses around white dwarf stars indicate the presence of various astrophysical objects of interest, including companions and debris disks. In this second paper of a series, we present follow-up observations of infrared excess candidates from *Gaia* and *unWISE* discussed in the first paper, Paper I. We report space-based infrared photometry at 3.6 and 4.5 micron for 174 white dwarfs from the *Spitzer Space Telescope* and ground-based near-infrared *J*, *H*, and *K* photometry of 235 white dwarfs from Gemini Observatory with significant overlap between *Spitzer* and Gemini observations. This data is used to confirm or rule-out the observed *unWISE* infrared excess. From the *unWISE*-selected candidate sample, the most promising infrared excess sample comes from both colour and flux excess, which has a *Spitzer* confirmation rate of 95%. We also discuss a method to distinguish infrared excess caused by stellar or sub-stellar companions from potential dust disks. In total, we confirm the infrared excess around 61 white dwarfs, 10 of which are likely to be stellar companions. The remaining 51 bright white dwarf with infrared excess beyond two microns has the potential to double the known sample of white dwarfs with dusty exoplanetary debris disks. Follow-up high-resolution spectroscopic studies of a fraction of confirmed excess white dwarfs in this sample have discovered emission from gaseous dust disks. Additional investigations will be able to expand the parameter space from which dust disks around white dwarfs are found.

Keywords: (stars:) white dwarfs — methods: observational — techniques: photometric — Physical Data and Processes - accretion, circumstellar disks, Brown dwarfs, M dwarf stars

1. INTRODUCTION

White dwarfs with circumstellar debris disks provide insight into the compositions of tidally disrupted exoplanetary bodies (Debes & Sigurdsson 2002; Jura 2003; Jura & Young 2014). Material from tidally disrupted planetesimals are linked to gases and solids involved in the exosolar planetary system's formation that were eventually incorporated into major and minor planetary bodies (Bergin et al. 2015). The study of white dwarfs

with circumstellar exoplanetary debris disks is further informing our understanding of the formation, evolution, and disruption of minor planetary bodies (Harrison et al. 2018; Malamud & Perets 2020; Malamud et al. 2020).

Dusty debris disks around white dwarfs are most often identified through their excess infrared radiation, though the excess can also be coming from any source cooler than the host white dwarf, including late-type stellar companions and brown dwarfs. The nominal frequency of white dwarfs with debris disks is estimated to be between 2-4% (Barber et al. 2014; Rocchetto et al. 2015; Wilson et al. 2019; Rebassa-Mansergas et al. 2019) and the occurrence rate of detached white dwarfs with

brown dwarf companions is estimated to be roughly 0.5-2.0% with fewer than a dozen systems known to date (Girven et al. 2011; Steele et al. 2011; Casewell et al. 2018). The occurrence rate of white dwarfs with M-dwarf companions is significantly greater at $28 \pm 3\%$ (Debes et al. 2011). Both dusty debris disks and late type stellar companions around white dwarfs are rare and useful for studies of specific astrophysical phenomena (e.g. Jura & Young 2014; Rappaport et al. 2017; Longstaff et al. 2019).

In 2018 a precision astrometric catalogue, *Gaia Data Release 2*, became publicly available (Brown et al. 2018) and its data was used to construct a new catalogue of $\sim 260,000$ high-confidence white dwarf candidates (Gentile Fusillo et al. 2019). The first paper in this series, Xu et al. (2020), identified infrared excess candidates using a list of high-probability, bright (*Gaia* $G < 17.0$ mag) white dwarfs from *Gaia DR2* and photometry from *unWISE* (Schlafly et al. 2019), which is a catalogue combining all of the available *NEOWISE* and *WISE* original epochs. Hereafter, we refer to Xu et al. 2020 as ‘‘Paper I’’. Using specific reproducible selection criteria, a sample of the best *unWISE* infrared excess candidates were filtered out resulting in 188 final candidates. However, white dwarfs selected using the methodology outlined in Paper I are still affected by *WISE* source confusion and contamination, which is the main limitation for *WISE*-selected infrared candidates (Dennihy et al. 2020a). This study presents follow-up observations of candidates from Paper I to confirm the presence of infrared excess and, in some cases, identify the likely source.

We present infrared photometric observations of 183 targets observed with the *Spitzer Space Telescope* and 235 targets observed with Gemini Observatory near-infrared imagers, with 98 observed with both. The target selection did not closely adhere to Paper I’s final selection criteria, but the observed sample of white dwarfs includes 92 of the final 188 identified infrared excess candidates of Paper I, 56 of which were observed with *Spitzer*. In Section 2, we discuss the white dwarf sample and their photometric observations. In Section 3, we discuss the modeling of the white dwarf photospheric flux and construct spectral energy distributions for each target. We also show the methodology for confirming the existence of infrared excess with *Spitzer* and assess how the results can inform future studies of infrared excess candidates without *Spitzer* data. In Section 4, we show a method, using near-infrared photometry, which indicates when the source of the infrared excess is likely a low-mass companion rather than a dust disk. In Section 5, we discuss the infrared excess findings and their implications for the remaining sample of candidates from

Table 1. Number of targets observed by *Spitzer’s IRAC* and Gemini near-infrared instruments categorised into Samples A-D and Sample E as described in Paper I. The second column indicates the total number of white dwarfs in each Sample.

Sample	Paper I	<i>Spitzer</i>	Gemini (<i>NIRI/F2</i>)
Sample A-D	5814	118	165 (61/108)
Sample E	188	56	70 (55/18)

Paper I. In Section 6, we conclude with a summary of the results and a description of the best remaining candidates for follow-up observations.

2. OBSERVATION AND DATA REDUCTION

The selection process of Paper I separates white dwarfs into five distinct samples (ABCDE), each according to well-defined characteristics. Each successive sample is a subset of the prior sample (see Figure 3 in Paper I). The final sample of 188 highest-confidence infrared excess candidates make up ‘‘Sample E’’ in Paper I. It includes 22 known white dwarf debris disks and three known white dwarf-brown dwarf pairs. Hereafter, we refer to the final sample of 188 infrared excess candidates from Paper I as ‘‘Sample E’’. All observed white dwarfs outside of Sample E are referred to as ‘‘Samples A-D’’, meaning Sample A through to Sample D. Target selection for this study was largely independent of Paper I’s selection criteria. For *Spitzer* observations, we selected targets from a preliminary infrared excess candidate list compiled before the methodology of Paper I was fully established. For near-infrared imaging, we selected targets based on lack of publicly available *J*, *H*, and *K* photometry. As a result, the white dwarfs in this study were sourced from every Sample as defined in Paper I. Table 1 shows the breakdown of observed white dwarfs by their original Sample in Paper I.

2.1. *IRAC* Imaging and Photometry

We observed 183 targets with the *InfraRed Array Camera (IRAC)* in both warm channels with central wavelengths located at 3.6 (*Ch1*) and 4.5 microns (*Ch2*) respectively (Werner et al. 2004) under the programme number 14220. Each exposure was 30 seconds and 11 medium-sized dithers were used for each wavelength. Both point-response function (PRF) and aperture photometry were performed for every observation using the *MOsaicker and Point source EXtractor (MOPEX)* package. The measurement flux uncertainty was added in quadrature with an additional calibration uncertainty of 5% (Farihi et al. 2008). We report the PRF magnitudes unless the target did not appear properly subtracted in the residual image or the centroid position of

the target between the *Ch1* and *Ch2* frames was significantly discrepant. In those cases, we reported magnitudes measured from aperture photometry. Observed targets have a typical measurement signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of 17.5 in *Ch1* and 18.2 in *Ch2* after applying the systematic calibration uncertainty.

As they were selected for having *unWISE* excess, many of our targets are found in crowded fields with the risk of contamination from nearby sources, even in the higher spatial resolution *Spitzer* images. The PRF-fitted photometry can mitigate this risk, but is not immune to cases of overlapping sources or nearby extended sources. The reliability of the *Spitzer* photometry was determined by examination of the PRF residual images, which we searched for evidence of over- or under-subtraction of the target source. We have flagged 9 of 183 targets for which the PRF was not cleanly subtracted and this *Spitzer* flag is indicated by the letter “s” in Table A3. Photometry of targets with the *Spitzer* flag is considered unreliable and any indication of excess is not likely to be real. We exclude flagged targets from excess statistics but report them in Table A3 for completeness. The remaining 174 targets with reliable *Spitzer* photometry are examined for infrared excess in Section 3.2.

2.2. *NIRI* and *FLAMINGOS-2* Imaging and Photometry

We obtained new near-infrared photometry for a total of 116 white dwarfs using the *Near InfraRed Imager* (*NIRI*; Hodapp et al. 2000) at Gemini North and 126 targets from *Flamingos-2* (*F2*; Eikenberry et al. 2006) at Gemini South. In total, 235 white dwarfs were observed, accounting for some overlap between *NIRI* and *F2*. Observations were conducted under a variety of weather conditions. More information on the Gemini observations and data processing can be found in the [Gemini Observatory Near Infrared Imaging Diagnostics](#) section of the Appendix. A small sample of the infrared photometry of targets observed by both Gemini and *Spitzer* is available in Table 2 with the full table containing all of the new photometry available in digital form¹.

Gemini-N/NIRI: We conducted observations of 116 white dwarfs using *NIRI* at Gemini North as part of programs GN-2018B-FT-208, GN-2018B-Q-406, GN-2019A-Q-303, GN-2019A-Q-403, GN-2019B-FT-111, GN-2019B-FT-216, GN-2019B-Q-237, GN-2019B-Q-408, and GN-2020A-Q-405. Each target was observed in

the Mauna Kea Observatory (*MKO*) standard *J*, *H*, and *K* filters within a 120” x 120” field of view. Exposures were 10 seconds and a random dither pattern was employed for a total of approximately 20 exposures in each filter. Data reduction and frame-stacking were handled by version 2.1.0 of Gemini’s publicly available Data Reduction for Astronomy from Gemini North and South (*DRAGONS*) software (Labrie et al. 2019). Aperture photometry was performed with *astropy*’s *photutils* (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013) using its point-spread function (PSF) fitting capabilities. The reference stars were modeled independently to determine an appropriate aperture radius for each frame based on three times the median of the full-width half-maximum (FWHM) determined by the PSF fitting. Bright reference stars in the *Two Micron All-Sky Survey* (*2MASS*; Skrutskie et al. 2006), where the *2MASS* $K_s \leq 15.5$ mag, located within the field of view, were used to calibrate the zero-points for all *J*, *H*, and *K* bandpasses. For *J* and *H* images, we used the same bright reference stars from *K*-band unless the total number of reference stars is less than five. In which case, we used all of the *2MASS* stars contained within the field of view. The *2MASS* photometry of reference stars was converted into the *MKO* photometric system in order to calibrate a static flux zeropoint for each image (Hodgkin et al. 2009). The typical SNR for our targets were 170, 170, and 140 for *J*, *H*, and *K* bands respectively.

Gemini-S/F2: For targets in the southern sky, we conducted observations of 126 white dwarfs at Gemini South using *F2* as part of programs GS-2018B-FT-204, GS-2018B-Q-404, GS-2019A-Q-301, GS-2019A-Q-404, GS-2019B-Q-237, GS-2019B-Q-408, and GS-2020A-Q-409. Seven of the observed targets were also observed with *NIRI*. Each target was observed in the *MKO J* and *H* bandpasses, as well as the K_s bandpass, with a 6’ circular field of view. As with *NIRI*, we used a random dither pattern around the target, but the exposure times were often between 10-30 seconds for *J* band, 6-10 seconds for *H* band, and 10-20 seconds for K_s band. Upwards of 20 exposures per target in each filter were taken. We used *DRAGONS* for data reduction and performed aperture photometry in the same way as with targets observed by *NIRI* using bright *2MASS* reference stars within the field of view. Since the *F2* K_s filter is similar to that of *2MASS* (Leggett et al. 2015), no transformation was made for the K_s magnitude to convert it into the *MKO* system preceding the zeropoint calibration. Typical SNR across all *F2* targets and filters were 180, 140, and 110 for *J*, *H*, and K_s bands respectively.

Some of the white dwarfs observed with Gemini have existing near-infrared photometry. The Gemini photom-

¹ Temporarily available at https://www.mso.anu.edu.au/~samlai/Table_2_MR.csv

etry was compared against the *UKIRT Infrared Deep Sky Survey (UKIDSS)* for *NIRI* and *VISTA Hemisphere Survey (VHS)* for *F2*. The comparisons showed systematic linear offsets in the *J* band for *NIRI*, and in the *J* and K_s bands for *F2*. We measured and corrected for this offset. Additional details, including the magnitude of the offsets, are shown in the Appendix Section A.1.

The Gemini aperture photometry can be unreliable for reasons including blending with background objects or poor zeropoint calibration. We found the uncertainty of our photometric results to increase up to 30% when the number of quality reference stars within the field of view is small, thus we have flagged all photometry where four or fewer reference stars were used. In cases where the Gemini photometry is flagged, we consider public photometry from *UKIDSS*, *UKIRT Hemisphere Survey (UHS)*, and *VISTA* instead for calculations involving near-infrared excess if they exist. The *VISTA* photometry is transformed into the *MKO* system. If no public near-infrared photometry is available, we use the flagged Gemini photometry as a last resort. In total, 81 targets were flagged out of 235 targets observed with Gemini Observatory. Flagged targets should be treated with additional caution.

3. CONFIRMING THE INFRARED EXCESS WITH SPITZER

In the previous section, we presented the new infrared photometry of 235 white dwarfs using Gemini Observatory and 174 white dwarfs using the *Spitzer Space Telescope*. With its higher spatial resolution and sensitivity, the *Spitzer* photometry is ideally suited to confirm or rule-out the presence of infrared excess in the candidates of Paper I. In this section, we construct spectral energy distributions (SEDs) of all targets observed by *Spitzer* and compare them with stellar models. We also establish quantitative metrics of colour and flux excess. These metrics are applied to the new *Spitzer* and Gemini observations to confirm or rule-out the observed infrared excess.

3.1. Stellar Model Comparisons

SEDs were constructed using photometry from the *Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (PanSTARRS; Chambers et al. 2019)* DR1, *Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; Ahn et al. 2014)* DR12, *VHS (Cross, N. J. G. et al. 2012)* DR6, *UKIDSS (Lawrence et al. 2007; Hambly et al. 2008)* DR11, *UHS (Dye et al. 2017)* DR1, *2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006)*, *ALLWISE (Cutri et al. 2013)*, and *unWISE (Schlafly et al. 2019)*. For our white dwarf photometric and spectroscopic models, we assume the effective temperature, T_{eff} , and surface gravity of the DA model fits reported in Gentile

Fusillo (Gentile Fusillo et al. 2019). For each target, synthetic photometry of a DA white dwarf (Holberg & Bergeron 2006)² was scaled to fit the *PanSTARRS*, *SDSS*, or *Gaia* optical photometry using chi-square minimisation methods. Hereafter, we refer to the DA white dwarf synthetic photometry as the ‘‘Bergeron model’’. For visual purposes, a blackbody model was adjusted to fit the *J* flux density of the photometric Bergeron model in the SED figures. The model flux and its corresponding uncertainty described in the following sections refer to the photometric Bergeron model.

All photometric magnitudes were converted into flux densities using associated zero-points for each band-pass. Gemini photometry was converted into flux density using photometric zeropoints of the *MKO* system (Hodgkin et al. 2009). Filter transformation is described in detail in the Appendix Section A.1.

Sources of statistical error in the model include the uncertainty in the temperature, parallax, and surface gravity. The model error was computed by fitting a Poissonian probability distribution to a set of apparent magnitudes generated from a Monte-Carlo simulation. For each magnitude, the temperature was randomly sampled from a Gaussian distribution of its mean and standard deviation. A resulting magnitude was obtained from each set of white dwarf parameters by referring to the pure-hydrogen model white dwarf atmosphere grid from the Bergeron model. We applied an uncertainty floor of 5% in the model flux to represent the systematic uncertainty of fitting every target with a DA white dwarf model while lacking information on each individual target’s spectral type. If the white dwarf parameters are off or it is a different spectral type than the assumed DA, it can lead to an erroneous stellar temperature affecting the predicted infrared flux in the bands of interest. As a secondary check, we have also performed the infrared stellar model flux calculations for all targets using DB parameters from Gentile Fusillo et. al. and DB models from Bergeron, finding a median flux difference of 4% although other white dwarf models may result in a larger discrepancy. A sample of representative SEDs are shown in Figure 1 and the rest are submitted as digital content³.

3.2. Assessing Infrared Excess

With the new infrared data presented in Section 2 and the Bergeron stellar model fluxes (Holberg & Bergeron 2006), we are able to re-assess the infrared excess for

² <https://www.astro.umontreal.ca/~bergeron/CoolingModels/>

³ Temporarily available at <https://www.mso.anu.edu.au/~samlai/SEDs.zip>

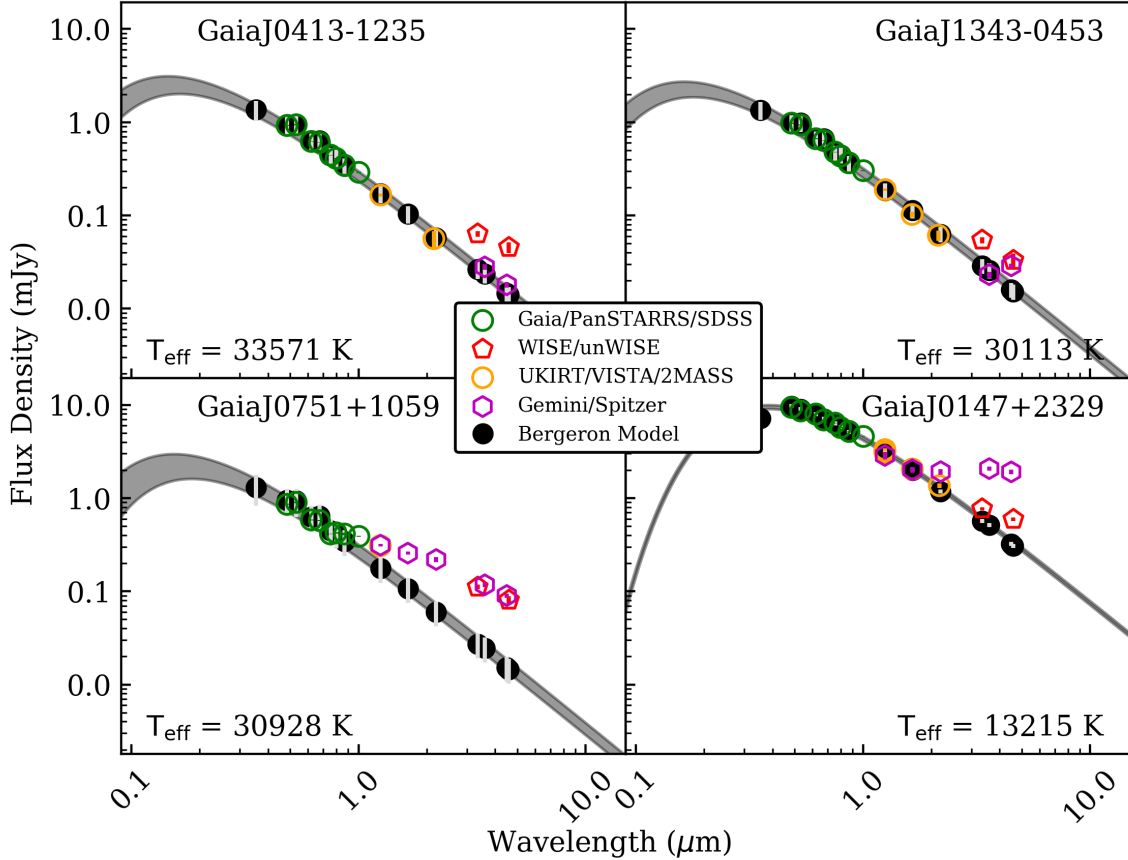


Figure 1. Selected spectral energy distributions of our targets. For visual purposes, the photometry is fitted with two photometric models: the black points mark the photometric Bergeron model (Holberg & Bergeron 2006) based on atmospheric parameters determined in Gentile Fusillo et al. (2019), and the shaded region traces a blackbody model and its one-sigma uncertainty. The SED on the top left panel (GaiaJ0413-1235) shows a case of an infrared excess candidate from Paper I that is ruled out by the higher quality *Spitzer* photometry. These cases are the result of source confusion in *unWISE* that are resolved by *Spitzer*. The top-right panel (GaiaJ1343-0453) shows one target with colour-only excess. The bottom-left panel (GaiaJ0751+1059) shows an example of an infrared excess characteristic of a white dwarf with a low-mass companion and the bottom-right panel (GaiaJ0147+2329) shows infrared excess from a known circumstellar dust disk. GaiaJ0147+2329 is also a special case of a disk with high infrared variability, with over one magnitude of difference between the *Spitzer* and *unWISE* photometry, due to a possible tidal disruption in progress (Wang et al. 2019). All of the SEDs are available online.

each target. Following the methods outlined in Paper I, we use both the flux excess metric and mid-infrared colour excess metric to search for infrared excesses. We define the flux excess metric, χ_i , as

$$\chi_i = \frac{F_{\text{obs},i} - F_{\text{mod},i}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{\text{obs},i}^2 + \sigma_{\text{mod},i}^2}}, \quad (1)$$

where the indices, i , indicate any single band-pass. $F_{\text{obs},i}$ and $F_{\text{mod},i}$ are the observed flux and model flux respectively, while σ indicates the flux error. An alternative version of the flux excess metric used in Paper I measures magnitude excess with the observed and model magnitudes as well as their errors. In our sample, there was no significant difference between the flux and magnitude excess. Many of the observed targets, including

all white dwarfs in Sample E, were identified in Paper I with both *unWISE* magnitude excess metrics exceeding the thresholds $\chi_{W1} > 5$ and $\chi_{W2} > 5$. We calculated *Spitzer* $\chi_{\text{ch}1}$ and $\chi_{\text{ch}2}$ for 56 infrared excess candidates in Sample E and 118 white dwarfs in Sample A-D. We also measured Gemini χ_J , χ_H , and χ_K values for 70 infrared excess candidates in Sample E and 165 white dwarfs in Sample A-D with significant overlap between targets observed by *Spitzer* and Gemini. We show the excess *Spitzer* $\chi_{\text{ch}1}$ and $\chi_{\text{ch}2}$ values for all of observed candidates in Tables A2 and A3.

In Figure 2, we show the distribution of *Spitzer* $\chi_{\text{ch}1}$ and $\chi_{\text{ch}2}$ chi-values for all of the observed targets. There is a locus of points clustered around the chi values of $\langle \chi \rangle_{\text{ch}1} = 0.54 \pm 0.91$ and $\langle \chi \rangle_{\text{ch}2} = 1.05 \pm 1.25$, as indi-

Table 2. Photometry of white dwarfs observed by both *Spitzer* and one of Gemini’s near-infrared instruments, *NIRI* or *F2*. Gemini near-infrared *J*, *H*, *K* magnitudes are reported in the *MKO* system. Colour transformations have been applied to *F2* *K_s*. Photometry flag, “g”, indicates when the Gemini photometry is based on a low number of reference stars, which is also correlated with higher uncertainty. The total number of targets observed is 320, with near-infrared photometry reported for 180 targets for the first time and new *Spitzer* photometry for 174 targets.

Name	<i>Gaia</i> RA (deg)	<i>Gaia</i> Dec (deg)	<i>J</i> (mag)	<i>H</i> (mag)	<i>K</i> (mag)	Instrument	<i>Spitzer</i> Ch1 (mag)	<i>Spitzer</i> Ch2 (mag)	Flags
GaiaJ0428+3644	67.078300	36.739478	17.21 ± 0.06	17.27 ± 0.03	17.28 ± 0.03	<i>NIRI</i>	17.25 ± 0.07	16.91 ± 0.07	
GaiaJ0609+3913	92.250011	39.222588	17.58 ± 0.05	17.73 ± 0.03	17.77 ± 0.03	<i>NIRI</i>	17.62 ± 0.08	17.68 ± 0.08	
GaiaJ0834+5336	128.588430	53.604311	17.44 ± 0.05	17.68 ± 0.04	17.74 ± 0.03	<i>NIRI</i>	17.67 ± 0.09	17.74 ± 0.08	
GaiaJ0902+3120	135.677408	31.345378	15.14 ± 0.11	15.09 ± 0.14	15.19 ± 0.15	<i>NIRI</i>	15.07 ± 0.06	15.07 ± 0.06	g
GaiaJ1903+6035	285.833014	60.598328	15.20 ± 0.07	15.25 ± 0.05	15.04 ± 0.06	<i>NIRI</i>	14.05 ± 0.06	13.51 ± 0.06	
GaiaJ2233+8408	338.321327	84.137396	16.37 ± 0.06	16.42 ± 0.04	16.46 ± 0.04	<i>NIRI</i>	16.43 ± 0.06	16.51 ± 0.06	
GaiaJ0107+2518	16.859511	25.309778	17.07 ± 0.05	17.12 ± 0.03	17.26 ± 0.07	<i>F2</i>	17.23 ± 0.07	17.09 ± 0.07	
GaiaJ0347+1624	56.902909	16.402432	16.92 ± 0.05	16.88 ± 0.04	16.60 ± 0.07	<i>F2</i>	16.40 ± 0.06	15.90 ± 0.06	
GaiaJ0421+1529	65.453585	15.487452	17.04 ± 0.06	17.11 ± 0.03	17.10 ± 0.08	<i>F2</i>	17.04 ± 0.07	16.98 ± 0.07	
GaiaJ0950+1837	147.529107	18.625792	16.82 ± 0.05	16.83 ± 0.03	16.95 ± 0.09	<i>F2</i>	16.81 ± 0.06	16.90 ± 0.07	
GaiaJ1155+2649	178.775677	26.823271	17.17 ± 0.07	17.19 ± 0.07	17.33 ± 0.08	<i>F2</i>	16.85 ± 0.06	16.72 ± 0.06	
GaiaJ1449-3029	222.388494	-30.488730	16.41 ± 0.05	16.29 ± 0.03	16.13 ± 0.08	<i>F2</i>	16.10 ± 0.06	16.07 ± 0.06	
GaiaJ1612+1419	243.026837	14.318464	16.51 ± 0.07	16.49 ± 0.02	16.63 ± 0.12	<i>F2</i>	16.50 ± 0.06	16.51 ± 0.06	g

^gGemini photometry flag.

Note: This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable format .

cated by the solid green lines. This offset from zero is not likely due to real excess, but rather originating from systematics of the photometry or source confusion. As discussed in Paper I, many of the *unWISE* candidates are likely false positives, with the *unWISE* excess being the result of nearby unresolved objects. Though the *Spitzer* data has much higher quality, we still expect some contamination from nearby sources in our PRF fluxes, which could be contributing to the offsets. To identify targets with true flux excess, we assume the negative dispersion around the locus is due to statistical fluctuation. A Gaussian profile is fitted to a synthetic distribution created by mirroring the negative dispersion across the most populated bin. The mirrored distribution is shown by the red dashed histogram outline in Figure 2. We consider infrared excess to be statistically significant as observed by *Spitzer* if $\chi_i > (3\sigma + \text{offset})$ in both *IRAC Ch1* and *Ch2*. Therefore, the *Spitzer* flux excess thresholds are $\chi_{\text{ch1}} > 3.27$ and $\chi_{\text{ch2}} > 4.80$ and both conditions must be satisfied for a target to have confirmed flux excess. We found 42 targets with flux excess in Sample E and 17 targets with flux excess in Samples A-D.

The mid-infrared single-colour excess, $\Sigma_{\text{ch1-ch2}}$, hereafter shortened to “colour excess”, is defined for the two warm bandpasses *Spitzer Ch1* and *Ch2* as

$$\Sigma_{\text{ch1-ch2}} = \frac{m_{\text{obs,ch1}} - m_{\text{obs,ch2}} - m_{\text{mod,ch1-ch2}}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{\text{obs,ch1}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{obs,ch2}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{mod,ch1-ch2}}^2}}, \quad (2)$$

where all quantities and uncertainties are in units of magnitude. The numerator measures the difference be-

tween the observed and model colour, which is normalised against their uncertainties added in quadrature. In Paper I, we considered a target to have colour excess if $\Sigma_{\text{W1-W2}} > 3$. For our *Spitzer*-observed sample, we found the mean colour-excess metric $\langle \Sigma \rangle_{\text{ch1-ch2}} = 0.31 \pm 0.59$. We minimised the effect of the infrared-excess bias in our *Spitzer*-observed sample by removing targets where flux excess is observed in either *Ch1* or *Ch2* from the mean colour-excess metric estimate. Using the same $\Sigma > 3$ threshold consistent with Paper I, we find 23 candidates in Sample E and five targets in Samples A-D with colour excess, all but two of which also host a flux excess. As seen in Figure 2, roughly 40% of observed white dwarfs in our sample exhibiting flux excess also have colour excess. We show the full table of all white dwarfs with *Spitzer* infrared excess and a table of all *Spitzer*-observed white dwarfs without infrared excess in the Appendix, Tables A2 and A3.

In this paper, white dwarfs are considered to have an IR excess when either flux excess or colour excess metric exceed the threshold. In this study, we have identified a total of 61 systems with *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess across all Samples ABCDE, 43 of which are from the *unWISE*-selected candidates in Sample E originally from Paper I.

4. SEPARATING COMPANIONS FROM DUST DISKS WITH GEMINI PHOTOMETRY

In this section, we discuss one application of the near-infrared photometry in distinguishing between two potential infrared excess sources: stellar companions and

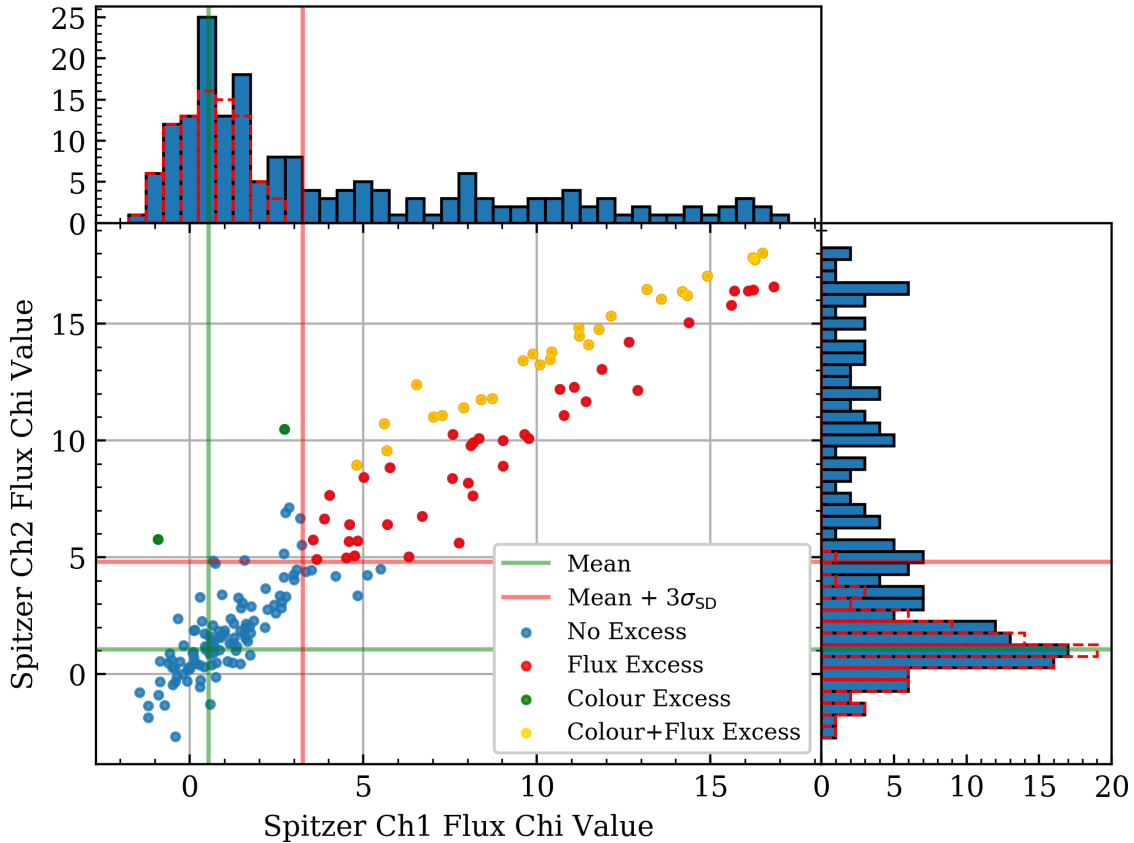


Figure 2. Distribution of flux excess χ_i values for *IRAC Ch1* and *Ch2* for the *Spitzer*-observed targets with one outlier removed. The 3-sigma threshold using the statistical distribution from our observed sample is shown as a solid red line and the mean is shown in green. The locus of points around the mean is likely dominated by false positive *unWISE* excess candidates that were the result of contamination or source confusion. These cases were resolved by *Spitzer*, but some residual contamination in our *Spitzer* photometry leads to the small offset of the locus from zero. The 3-sigma threshold takes the offset from zero into account for the determination of statistically significant flux excess. Targets with *Spitzer* flux excess exceeding the designated threshold are plotted in red and the mirrored distribution used to calculate the standard deviation is shown by the red-dashed histogram. Plotted in purple are *Spitzer*-observed white dwarfs with both colour and flux excess and colour-only excess targets are plotted in navy blue.

circumstellar dust disks/brown dwarfs. The Gemini photometry provides the critical near-infrared flux measurement where the infrared excess from a companion or a dust disk can potentially be disentangled.

The source of the white dwarf infrared excess identified in this study can originate from companions or dust disks of varying temperatures. In the warm *Spitzer* and *unWISE* bandpasses, these two cases are difficult to distinguish (Figure 1 in Paper I). However, known dust disks typically do not show significant infrared excess at wavelengths shorter than two micron (Farihi 2016). This is consistent with the expectation that the inner edges of the dust disk are terminated at temperatures between 1600K to 2000K (Rafikov & Garmilla 2012). In contrast, low-mass stellar companions span a much larger range of temperatures. As such, high-quality near-infrared photometry can be used to determine when the infrared

excess source is not likely due to the presence of a dust disk (Barber et al. 2014). The lack of excess shorter than two micron is not sufficient to confirm the presence of dusty debris or rule out companions altogether, but a confirmation of excess in the near-infrared *J* bandpass can be used to rule out dust disks as the source of the excess.

The flux excess metric in Eq. 1 is used to quantify the magnitude of the excess in the near-infrared bands. In Figure 3, our candidates are compared against the near-infrared photometry of a known sample of dusty white dwarfs (WD+Disk), a sample of known white dwarf with brown dwarf (WD+BD) binaries (Farihi & Christopher 2004; Maxted et al. 2006; Steele et al. 2013; Casewell et al. 2018), and a sample of known white dwarfs with M-dwarf (WD+M) companions (Rebassa-Mansergas et al. 2016). The known sample of dusty white dwarfs is found

in Table 1 of Paper I. The frequency of WD+M systems is low for this sample as the selection criteria discussed in Paper I avoided propagating most WD+M systems into the final sample of candidates.

While some dusty white dwarfs exhibit high χ_K , most of the M-dwarf companion systems exhibit significant χ_J as well, which is uncommon for dust disks. The surface gravity of many binary white dwarf systems with low χ_J is poorly constrained, which affects the model uncertainty and significantly lowers the χ_J value. This is not the case for the known white dwarfs with dust disks. The mean χ_J for the population of known white dwarfs with circumstellar dust disks is $\langle\chi\rangle_J = -0.03 \pm 0.89$. We use this metric to identify *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess candidates with $\chi_J \geq 3.0$ as likely to be hosting a companion rather than a dust disk. This threshold is indicated in Figure 3 by the solid green vertical line. The χ_J value of known white dwarfs with dust disks is consistent with zero, such that the infrared excess of targets beyond the $\chi_J = 3.0$ threshold is unlikely to be the result of a dusty debris disk. We display this property with a χ_J flag when reporting the targets with *Spitzer* infrared excess in Table A2 of the Appendix. Out of the 61 total targets with *Spitzer* excess, all but two have some existing high-quality near-infrared photometry from public surveys or new Gemini photometry. A total of 10 targets are flagged with a high $\chi_J > 3.0$ value, indicating likely stellar or substellar companion excess. Four of these, GaiaJ0007+1951, GaiaJ0751+1059, GaiaJ1131-1438, and GaiaJ1731-1002, also have significant *PanSTARRS* y -band excess over 3σ which could be indicative of a low-mass stellar companion over a brown dwarf. Additional caution should be applied for one target, GaiaJ0507+4541, as its Gemini photometry is flagged and no public near-infrared photometry is used in its place. Near-infrared spectroscopy and time series photometry would be useful to confirm the origin of the infrared excess.

5. DISCUSSION

In this section, we discuss the targets with *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excesses. We present a summary of targets with *Spitzer* excess in Table 3 with the full table of infrared excess targets in the Appendix, Table A2. We also report all targets without evidence of *Spitzer* excess in the Appendix, Table A3. We evaluate the implications of the results presented here on the remainder of infrared excess candidates in Paper I. In addition, we revisit our remaining candidates from Paper I that do not have *Spitzer* photometry and present nine targets with the highest likelihood of exhibiting real excess for observational follow-up.

Table 3. Number of targets confirmed by *Spitzer* with either the colour or flux excess metric categorised into Samples A-D and Sample E as described in Paper I. The number of confirmed white dwarfs are further subdivided into those confirmed by both flux & colour metrics, those confirmed with the flux metric only, and those confirmed with the colour metric only. In total, 18 targets had confirmed excess in Samples A-D and 43 targets were confirmed with excess in Sample E.

Sample	Observed	Flux & Colour	FluxOnly	ColourOnly
Samples A-D	118	4	13	1
Sample E	56	22	20	1

5.1. *Spitzer*-Confirmed Infrared Excesses (Sample E)

We have observed 56 *unWISE*-selected infrared excess candidates from the final sample of 188 candidates which makes up Sample E in Paper I. With the excess metrics outlined in previous sections and the new *Spitzer* photometry, we find 43 targets from Sample E with either flux or colour excess, of which 22 satisfy both excess thresholds. Previous studies found that over 90% of the known sample of white dwarfs with circumstellar dust disks exhibit both statistically significant flux and colour excess (Wilson et al. 2019).

In Sample E, we find 20 stars with only flux excess and one star with colour-only excess. We show the number of stars with infrared excess in Table 3. The confirmation rate for *Spitzer* excess in the 56 observed Sample E targets is 77%. We also find seven targets with significant J -band excess, indicating that the white dwarf is likely to have a low-mass companion.

Out of the observed Sample E white dwarfs, we found four white dwarfs with flux excess in only *Spitzer Ch2* bandpass, including the one star with only colour excess. This scenario could indicate the presence of cooler dust, similar to the case of HS 2132+0941 (Bergfors et al. 2014). For the 13 *Spitzer*-observed Sample E candidates without a *Spitzer* flag or confirmation of excess, three of the white dwarfs exhibited only *Ch2* excess and did not satisfy either of the flux or colour excess thresholds. The remaining ten exhibited *unWISE* excess which is ruled out by the higher quality *Spitzer* photometry. The *Spitzer* residuals show one or more distinct nearby sources which were captured and blended within the large beam size of *unWISE* and the *unWISE*-excess was the result of source confusion. These limitations were resolved using the new *Spitzer* photometry. We show an example of such a case in the top-left panel of Figure 1.

In Paper I, it was estimated that the false-positive rate for the final 188 infrared excess candidates in Sample E could be as high as 60% based on the expected fre-

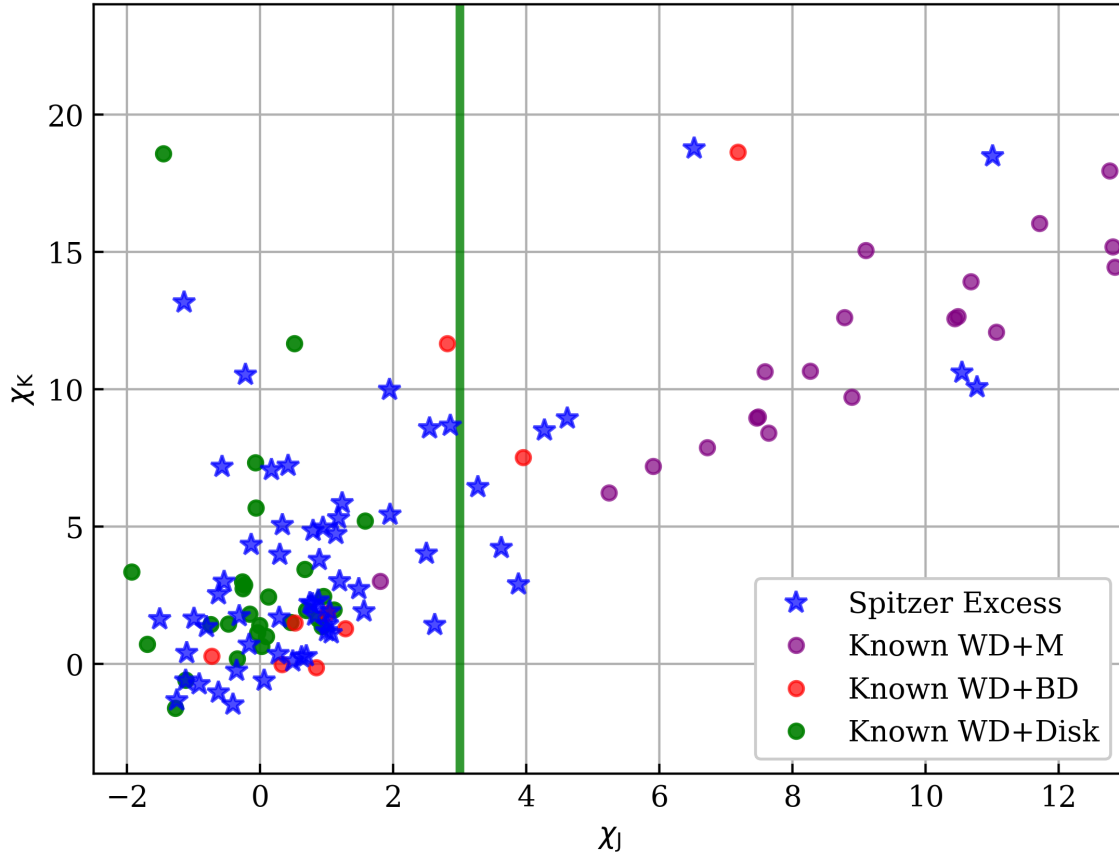


Figure 3. Observed candidates’ χ_J and χ_K metrics compared against a sample of known white dwarfs with brown dwarf companions (WD+BD), a sample of known white dwarfs with M-dwarf companions (WD+M), and a sample of known white dwarfs with circumstellar dust disks (WD+Disk). White dwarfs in binary systems with low-mass companions are sometimes differentiated by higher χ_J , while no known white dwarfs with circumstellar dust disks exhibit high χ_J . The green solid vertical line denotes a $\chi_J = 3$ threshold. Any *Spitzer* or *unWISE* excess candidates that lie beyond the χ_J line are likely to host excess from a stellar or sub-stellar companion rather than a dust disk.

quency of white dwarfs with dust disks or brown dwarf companions. At first glance, our confirmation rate of 77% for the *Spitzer*-observed Sample E candidates is almost double the expected rate of 40%. However, recalling that the targets for the *Spitzer* program were chosen before the Sample criteria in Paper I was established, we can understand this difference as a selection effect. As shown in Table 4, we break down the *Spitzer* confirmation rate in Sample E by the *unWISE* excess designation (colour or magnitude), which was a selection factor for our *Spitzer* targets. The *unWISE* magnitude excess in Paper I is analogous to flux excess in this study. As most known white dwarfs with dust disks exhibit both colour and flux excess, we have chosen to observe the highest proportion of targets in this category. Candidates with colour-only excess as indicated by the *unWISE* *W1* and *W2* bandpasses are under-observed in comparison.

Table 4 also shows that only a quarter of the targets in the colour-only excess *unWISE* category are

confirmed by *Spitzer*. Though only eight colour-only *unWISE* excess candidates were observed, these results indicate that colour-only excess candidates from Paper I are much more likely to be false positives than candidates with both a colour and magnitude excess. Interestingly, there is only one target observed in Sample E with *Spitzer*-confirmed colour-only excess, making it considerably rarer than the proportion of candidates indicated by Paper I’s *unWISE*-based study. This indicates that the colour of contaminants is typically redder than the white dwarf and the confused flux is responsible for the colour-only excess determination, consistent with Barber et al. (2014).

Based on the new *Spitzer* data, the 95% *Spitzer* infrared excess confirmation rate in the Colour+Mag *unWISE* excess category indicates that the remaining 9 unobserved targets which have not been previously confirmed are the best candidates for future study. Within the same Colour+Mag *unWISE* category, there are 18

Table 4. Number of targets in Sample E exhibiting *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess with either the colour or flux excess metric divided into each *unWISE* excess category as described in Paper I. The published excess column shows the number of known white dwarfs with known excess attributed to dust disks or brown dwarf companions in each category.

<i>unWISE</i> Excess	Published Excess	Observed	Confirmed	Remaining
Colour+Mag	18	20	19	9
MagOnly	6	28	22	54
ColourOnly	1	8	2	44

known white dwarfs with infrared excess which have all been shown to host circumstellar dust disks. Details of the nine remaining unobserved targets are shown in Table 5. One of the candidates, GaiaJ0416+4002, potentially hosts a stellar or sub-stellar companion based on the *J*-band excess.

5.2. *Spitzer*-Confirmed Infrared Excesses (Samples A-D)

As the targets for follow-up with *Spitzer* were chosen before the criteria for Paper I was finalised, we have also observed 118 white dwarfs with *Spitzer* outside of Sample E. Many of the targets in Samples A-D chosen for follow-up observation with *Spitzer* show evidence of excess in *unWISE* photometry, but were filtered from the final sample due to poor crossmatching, signs of contamination, or other reasons. In Samples A-D, 18 of the 118 *unWISE* white dwarfs were confirmed with *Spitzer* infrared excess. The confirmation rate of 15% is significantly lower than the 77% of Sample E candidates. All of the *Spitzer* photometry for observed targets in Samples A-D can be found in the Appendix, Tables A2 and A3. Here, we summarise the white dwarfs with confirmed *Spitzer* infrared excess in Samples A-D.

Four of the targets show both flux and colour excess. One of them, GaiaJ2223-2510, is a heavily polluted DB white dwarf (Jeffery et al. 2020) previously mis-identified as a hot subdwarf (Geier et al. 2017). Another target, GaiaJ0147+2329, is a known infrared variable with a dusty debris disk also known as Gaia 0145+234 (Wang et al. 2019). Its SED is shown in the bottom-right panel of Figure 1. GaiaJ1814-7355 and GaiaJ2015+5531 are two new targets with *Spitzer*-confirmed flux and colour excess. Only one target from Samples A-D, GaiaJ1343-0453, exhibits colour-only excess.

In Samples A-D, 13 targets exhibit flux-only excess and have existing near-infrared data, many of which were observed with Gemini. Three of these targets, GaiaJ0433+2827, GaiaJ1731-1002, and GaiaJ2026+5925,

likely host a stellar or sub-stellar companion based on the strong near-infrared excess in the *J*, *H*, and *K* bands. For the remaining 10, there is no clear evidence of excess in the *J*, *H*, *K* bandpasses, so we are unable to conclude that their excess originates from a binary companion. As with the confirmed infrared excesses from Sample E candidates, these targets are also worthwhile for further investigation into the nature and characteristics of their apparent infrared excess.

5.3. Comparison with the Known Sample

Our *Spitzer* observations confirm a total of 61 white dwarfs with flux or colour infrared excess, ten of which have excess likely to be attributed to low-mass companions rather than debris disks based on the observed *J*-band excess. The remaining 51 bright white dwarfs with *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess have the potential to double the known sample of white dwarfs with dusty debris disks. Additional spectroscopic studies will allow for further investigations into metal contamination, atmospheric typing of the white dwarf star, and constraining stellar parameters. Among other things, low-resolution follow-up optical spectroscopy can be used to find gas emission lines from dust disks and measure white dwarf atmospheric parameters. High-resolution follow-up can measure atmospheric pollution and infrared spectroscopy will be able to distinguish spectral features of brown dwarf companions from circumstellar dust disks. As *Spitzer* is now decommissioned, this is one of the final large samples of white dwarfs with infrared excess confirmed by the *Spitzer Space Telescope*.

In Figure 4, we show a comparison of effective temperature and surface gravity between the known sample of white dwarfs with debris disks and all of the *Spitzer*-confirmed excess white dwarfs. The effective temperature and surface gravity are DA white dwarf model fits to the *Gaia* DR2 photometric data reported in Gentile Fusillo et al. (2019). Two-sided Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) tests show that the overall distributions between the two samples are not significantly different, as demonstrated by the high p-values of 0.12 and 0.08 for the surface gravity and effective temperature respectively. Though the distributions are similar, there are candidates outside of the current parameter space occupied by known white dwarf debris disks to the increased sample size. If these *Spitzer* excess white dwarfs are confirmed to host dusty debris disks, they will probe a much wider range in surface gravity and effective temperatures, enabling new discoveries and increasing the range of environments where these disks can exist.

The 61 *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess targets presented here are prime targets for further follow-up. For

Table 5. Target information for the nine remaining white dwarfs not observed with *Spitzer* from Sample E of Paper I with both colour and magnitude excess from *unWISE* photometry. The near-infrared photometric data comes from *VHS* or Gemini and the *WISE* photometry is from *unWISE*. We used the subscript, “G”, for new Gemini photometry. These white dwarfs constitute the best targets for follow-up observation in the search for infrared excess based on the results of this study.

Name	<i>Gaia</i> RA (deg)	<i>Gaia</i> Dec (deg)	χ_i					Σ_{W1-W2}
			<i>J</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>W1</i>	<i>W2</i>	
GaiaJ0416+4002	64.16322455	40.04256388	4.99	5.86	9.58	31.23	34.80	4.21
GaiaJ0508+0535	77.05930764	5.592926987	-1.47 _G	-1.66 _G	0.61 _G	8.47	10.05	3.60
GaiaJ0749-3900	117.3161483	-39.01186171				17.23	19.53	3.73
GaiaJ1135-5303	173.9874602	-53.05559203	-0.61		2.85	5.19	14.41	7.28
GaiaJ1412-3546	213.2422586	-35.78173431	-0.16		0.44	12.71	20.89	7.67
GaiaJ1815+1850	273.7946423	18.83412731				11.51	12.58	3.70
GaiaJ1930-1129	292.6504427	-11.49697048	0.10		3.99	21.01	28.38	7.03
GaiaJ2004-5127	301.2234012	-51.45888457	-0.12		1.68	6.75	10.04	4.33
GaiaJ2126-2041	321.671907	-20.6845471	-0.78		3.94	15.58	18.39	4.63

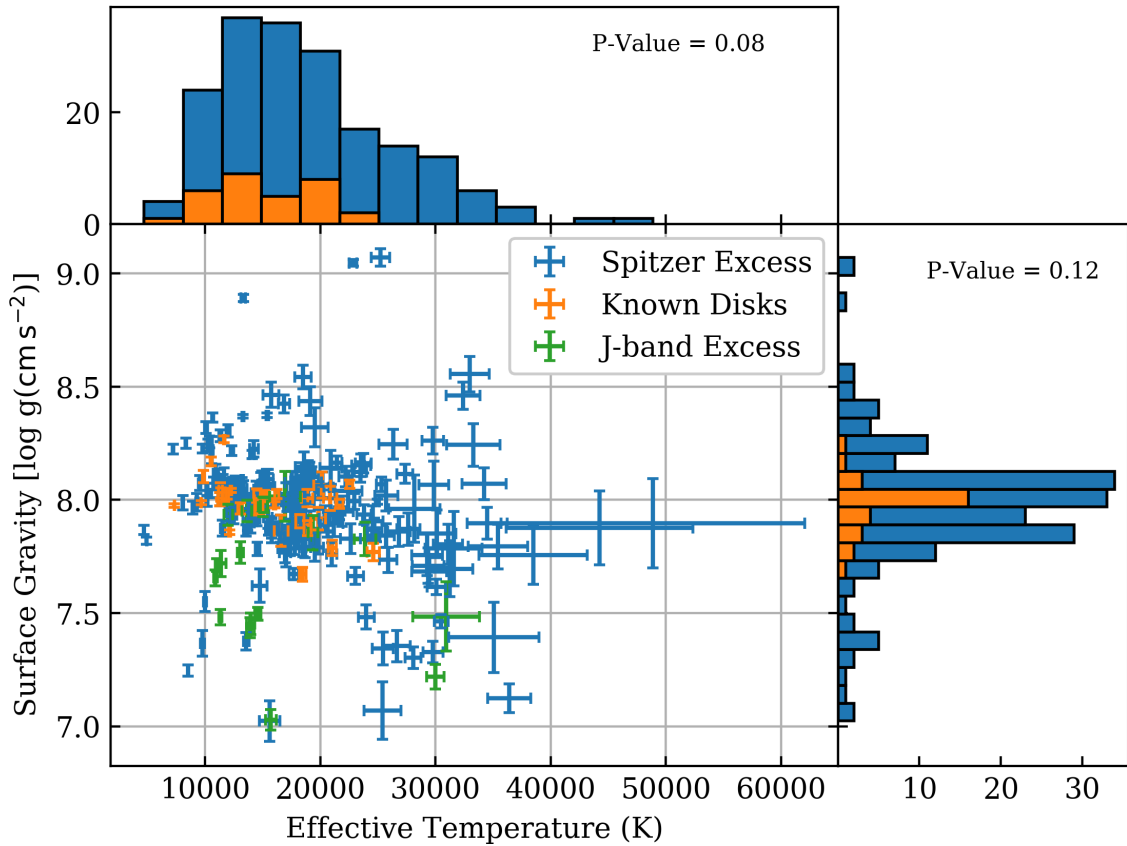


Figure 4. Surface gravity and effective temperature distribution of all white dwarfs with confirmed *Spitzer* excess and the known sample of white dwarfs with debris disks. Two-sided Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) tests show that the overall distribution of white dwarfs with confirmed excess is not significantly deviating from the distribution of the known sample. *Spitzer*-confirmed white dwarfs with J-band excess are plotted in green, but not included in the distribution. We list the p-values next to each distribution. The white dwarfs with confirmed infrared excess in our study span a wider range in both parameters due to the larger sample size.

example, [Dennihy et al. \(2020b\)](#) and [Melis et al. \(2020\)](#) independently discovered emission from gaseous debris disks around a total of nine white dwarfs, eight of which were candidates considered in this study. [Wang et al.](#)

(2019) identified GaiaJ0147+2329, shown in Figure 1, as a dusty disk with high infrared variability, possibly due to a tidal disruption event in progress. This shows

the potential for this list of *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess white dwarfs to result in new discoveries.

6. CONCLUSION

The first paper in this series, Paper I, identified 188 high-confidence infrared excess candidates constituting the final Sample E (Xu et al. 2020). In this paper, we discussed the results from photometric observations of 235 white dwarfs using Gemini North’s *NIRI* or Gemini South’s *F2* and 174 targets with the decommissioned *Spitzer Space Telescope*’s *IRAC*. Infrared photometric measurements were made in the search of excess flux and quantitative measurements of excess were used to evaluate the observed candidates. Most confirmed white dwarfs with dust disks exhibit both flux and colour excess. The new observational data found 61 targets with statistically significant infrared excess confirmed by *Spitzer*’s *IRAC* as listed in the Table A2, 10 of which are likely to be due to stellar or sub-stellar companions. Without additional modelling of the infrared excess, we do not distinguish between stellar or brown dwarf companions in this sample. The remaining 51 bright white dwarfs with infrared excess beyond two microns, 26 of which exhibit both flux and colour excess, have the potential to more than double the known sample of white dwarfs with dusty debris disks. With *Spitzer* decommissioned, this study contains one of the final large samples of white dwarfs with infrared excess confirmed by the *Spitzer Space Telescope*.

We caution that without additional spectroscopic observations on the *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess targets, it is difficult to determine the source of excess. White dwarfs with low-mass companions and white dwarfs with circumstellar dust disks have similar excess signatures in the infrared. We discussed one way to disentangle these two cases with observations in the near-infrared regime, where unlike dust disks, stellar or sub-stellar companions contribute to the detected excess radiation. We used *J*, *H*, *K* photometry from Gemini North and South Observatory to check for signs of excess characteristic of white dwarf binary systems. However, cooler low-mass companions can not be ruled out

in cases with $\chi_J < 3$, preventing us from determining the occurrence rates of dusty debris disks and low-mass companions around white dwarfs in our sample.

Of the remaining 132 candidates from Sample E of Paper I that were not observed with *Spitzer*, we identify nine high-confidence targets in Table 5 for future study based on the 95% *Spitzer* confirmation rate for *unWISE* excess candidates with both colour and magnitude excess.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the anonymous referee for the constructive comments and suggestions that have improved this manuscript.

This work is based on observations obtained at the international Gemini Observatory, a program of NSF’s NOIRLab, which is managed by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation on behalf of the Gemini Observatory partnership: the National Science Foundation (United States), National Research Council (Canada), Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (Chile), Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (Argentina), Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia, Inovações e Comunicações (Brazil), and Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (Republic of Korea).

This work is also based in part on observations made with the *Spitzer Space Telescope*, which is operated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology under a contract with NASA. Support for this work was provided by NASA through an award issued by JPL/Caltech.

ARM acknowledges financial support from the MINECO under the Ramón y Cajal program (RYC-2016-20254), the MINECO grant AYA2017-86274-P and the AGAUR grant SGR-661/2017. LKR is grateful to STFC and the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge for funding her PhD studentship.

Facilities: Gemini:Gillett, Gemini:South, *Spitzer*

Software: *astropy* (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013), DRAGONS (Labrie et al. 2019)

REFERENCES

- Ahn, C. P., Alexandroff, R., Prieto, C. A., et al. 2014, The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series, 211, 17, doi: [10.1088/0067-0049/211/2/17](https://doi.org/10.1088/0067-0049/211/2/17)
- Astropy Collaboration, Robitaille, T. P., Tollerud, E. J., et al. 2013, A&A, 558, A33, doi: [10.1051/0004-6361/201322068](https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/201322068)

- Barber, S. D., Kilic, M., Brown, W. R., & Gianninas, A. 2014, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 786, 77, doi: [10.1088/0004-637x/786/2/77](https://doi.org/10.1088/0004-637x/786/2/77)
- Bergfors, C., Farihi, J., Dufour, P., & Rocchetto, M. 2014, *MNRAS*, 444, 2147, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stu1565](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stu1565)
- Bergin, E. A., Blake, G. A., Ciesla, F., Hirschmann, M. M., & Li, J. 2015, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112, 8965, doi: [10.1073/pnas.1500954112](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1500954112)
- Brown, A. G. A., Vallenari, A., Prusti, T., et al. 2018, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 616, A1, doi: [10.1051/0004-6361/201833051](https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/201833051)
- Casewell, S. L., Littlefair, S. P., Parsons, S. G., et al. 2018, *MNRAS*, 481, 5216, doi: [10.1093/mnras/sty2599](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/sty2599)
- Chambers, K. C., Magnier, E. A., Metcalfe, N., et al. 2019, *The Pan-STARRS1 Surveys*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.05560>
- Cross, N. J. G., Collins, R. S., Mann, R. G., et al. 2012, *A&A*, 548, A119, doi: [10.1051/0004-6361/201219505](https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/201219505)
- Cutri, R. M., Wright, E. L., Conrow, T., et al. 2013, *Explanatory Supplement to the AllWISE Data Release Products*, Explanatory Supplement to the AllWISE Data Release Products
- Debes, J. H., Hoard, D. W., Wachter, S., Leisawitz, D. T., & Cohen, M. 2011, *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series*, 197, 38, doi: [10.1088/0067-0049/197/2/38](https://doi.org/10.1088/0067-0049/197/2/38)
- Debes, J. H., & Sigurdsson, S. 2002, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 572, 556, doi: [10.1086/340291](https://doi.org/10.1086/340291)
- Dennihi, E., Farihi, J., Fusillo, N. P. G., & Debes, J. H. 2020a, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 891, 97, doi: [10.3847/1538-4357/ab7249](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab7249)
- Dennihi, E., Xu, S., Lai, S., et al. 2020b, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 905, 5, doi: [10.3847/1538-4357/abc339](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/abc339)
- Dye, S., Lawrence, A., Read, M. A., et al. 2017, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 473, 5113–5125, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stx2622](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stx2622)
- Eikenberry, S., Elston, R., Raines, S. N., et al. 2006, *Ground-based and Airborne Instrumentation for Astronomy*, doi: [10.1117/12.672095](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.672095)
- Farihi, J. 2016, *NewAR*, 71, 9, doi: [10.1016/j.newar.2016.03.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.newar.2016.03.001)
- Farihi, J., & Christopher, M. 2004, *The Astronomical Journal*, 128, 1868–1871, doi: [10.1086/423919](https://doi.org/10.1086/423919)
- Farihi, J., Zuckerman, B., & Becklin, E. E. 2008, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 674, 431, doi: [10.1086/521715](https://doi.org/10.1086/521715)
- Geier, S., Østensen, R. H., Nemeth, P., et al. 2017, *A&A*, 600, A50, doi: [10.1051/0004-6361/201630135](https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/201630135)
- Gentile Fusillo, N. P., Tremblay, P.-E., Gänsicke, B. T., et al. 2019, *MNRAS*, 482, 4570, doi: [10.1093/mnras/sty3016](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/sty3016)
- Girven, J., Gänsicke, B. T., Steeghs, D., & Koester, D. 2011, *MNRAS*, 417, 1210, doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.19337.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.19337.x)
- González-Fernández, C., Hodgkin, S. T., Irwin, M. J., et al. 2018, *MNRAS*, 474, 5459, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stx3073](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stx3073)
- Hambly, N. C., Collins, R. S., Cross, N. J. G., et al. 2008, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 384, 637, doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2966.2007.12700.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2007.12700.x)
- Harrison, J. H. D., Bonsor, A., & Madhusudhan, N. 2018, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 479, 3814–3841, doi: [10.1093/mnras/sty1700](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/sty1700)
- Hodapp, K.-W., Hora, J., Graves, E., et al. 2000, *Proc SPIE*, 4008, 1334
- Hodgkin, S., Irwin, M., Hewett, P., & Warren, S. 2009, *Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc.*, 394, 675, doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2966.2008.14387.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2008.14387.x)
- Holberg, J. B., & Bergeron, P. 2006, *AJ*, 132, 1221, doi: [10.1086/505938](https://doi.org/10.1086/505938)
- Jeffery, C. S., Miszalski, B., & Snowdon, E. 2020, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 501, 623–642, doi: [10.1093/mnras/staa3648](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/staa3648)
- Jura, M. 2003, *ApJL*, 584, L91, doi: [10.1086/374036](https://doi.org/10.1086/374036)
- Jura, M., & Young, E. 2014, *Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences*, 42, 45, doi: [10.1146/annurev-earth-060313-054740](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-earth-060313-054740)
- Labrie, K., Anderson, K., Cárdenes, R., Simpson, C., & Turner, J. E. H. 2019, *Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series*, Vol. 523, DRAGONS - Data Reduction for Astronomy from Gemini Observatory North and South, ed. P. J. Teuben, M. W. Pound, B. A. Thomas, & E. M. Warner, 321
- Lawrence, A., Warren, S. J., Almaini, O., et al. 2007, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 379, 1599, doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2966.2007.12040.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2007.12040.x)
- Leggett, S. K., Morley, C. V., Marley, M. S., & Saumon, D. 2015, *ApJ*, 799, 37, doi: [10.1088/0004-637X/799/1/37](https://doi.org/10.1088/0004-637X/799/1/37)
- Longstaff, E. S., Casewell, S. L., Wynn, G. A., et al. 2019, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 484, 2566, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stz127](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stz127)
- Malamud, U., Grishin, E., & Brouwers, M. 2020, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, doi: [10.1093/mnras/staa3940](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/staa3940)
- Malamud, U., & Perets, H. B. 2020, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 492, 5561–5581, doi: [10.1093/mnras/staa142](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/staa142)
- Maxted, P. F. L., Napiwotzki, R., Dobbie, P. D., & Burleigh, M. R. 2006, *Nature*, 442, 543, doi: [10.1038/nature04987](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature04987)

- Melis, C., Klein, B., Doyle, A. E., et al. 2020, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 905, 56, doi: [10.3847/1538-4357/abbdfa](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/abbdfa)
- Rafikov, R. R., & Garmilla, J. A. 2012, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 760, 123, doi: [10.1088/0004-637x/760/2/123](https://doi.org/10.1088/0004-637x/760/2/123)
- Rappaport, S., Vanderburg, A., Nelson, L., et al. 2017, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 471, 948, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stx1611](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stx1611)
- Rebassa-Mansergas, A., Ren, J. J., Parsons, S. G., et al. 2016, *MNRAS*, 458, 3808, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stw554](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stw554)
- Rebassa-Mansergas, A., Solano, E., Xu, S., et al. 2019, *MNRAS*, 489, 3990, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stz2423](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stz2423)
- Rocchetto, M., Farihi, J., Gänsicke, B. T., & Bergfors, C. 2015, *MNRAS*, 449, 574, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stv282](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stv282)
- Schlafly, E. F., Meisner, A. M., & Green, G. M. 2019, *ApJS*, 240, 30, doi: [10.3847/1538-4365/aafbea](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4365/aafbea)
- Skrutskie, M. F., Cutri, R. M., Stiening, R., et al. 2006, *The Astronomical Journal*, 131, 1163, doi: [10.1086/498708](https://doi.org/10.1086/498708)
- Steele, P. R., Burleigh, M. R., Dobbie, P. D., et al. 2011, *MNRAS*, 416, 2768, doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.19225.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.19225.x)
- Steele, P. R., Saglia, R. P., Burleigh, M. R., et al. 2013, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 429, 3492, doi: [10.1093/mnras/sts620](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/sts620)
- Wang, T.-G., Jiang, N., Ge, J., et al. 2019, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:1910.04314. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.04314>
- Werner, M. W., Roellig, T. L., Low, F. J., et al. 2004, *ApJS*, 154, 1, doi: [10.1086/422992](https://doi.org/10.1086/422992)
- Wilson, T. G., Farihi, J., Gänsicke, B. T., & Swan, A. 2019, *MNRAS*, 487, 133, doi: [10.1093/mnras/stz1050](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stz1050)
- Xu, S., Lai, S., & Dennihy, E. 2020, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 902, 127, doi: [10.3847/1538-4357/abb3fc](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/abb3fc)

APPENDIX

A. GEMINI OBSERVATORY NEAR INFRARED IMAGING DIAGNOSTICS

A.1. Filter Transformations

In this work, all of the magnitudes are reported in the *Mauna Kea Observatory (MKO)* system and the appropriate filter transformations were applied. As not all fields have *MKO*-system photometry available, we have used *2MASS* as the universal calibrator. For our standard stars, we converted the *2MASS J, H, K_s* magnitudes into the *MKO* system using the transformations which were measured empirically for regions of low reddening, specifically Equations 6, 7, and 8 from [Hodgkin et al. \(2009\)](#).

For *NIRI*, all three of its near-infrared filters are similar to *UKIDSS*, which is already in the *MKO* system. We transformed the *2MASS* photometry of reference stars according to the above colour equations before measuring the target magnitudes. For *F2*, although *J* and *H* filters are in the *MKO* system, the *K_s* filter profile is very similar to the *2MASS K_s* filter ([Leggett et al. 2015](#)). Thus, the transformation of *2MASS K_s* to the *MKO* system is applied after measuring the target magnitude.

Comparisons between *2MASS* and *UKIDSS* photometry show a systematic deviation in the *K* filter wavelength regime when the targets are fainter than roughly 15.5 magnitude due to a sensitivity limit in *2MASS* ([Skrutskie et al. 2006](#)). For this reason, we choose reference stars with *K_s* magnitude brighter than 15.5 mag unless there are fewer than two reference stars within frame. The same reference stars used to perform photometry in the *K*-bandpass are reused for both the *J*- and *H*-bandpasses whenever possible.

Further comparisons between our *2MASS*-calibrated Gemini photometry against existing near-infrared photometry from *UKIRT*'s *WFCAM* and *VISTA* show some systematic linear offset. Correcting for this offset was found to improve the reliability of the Gemini photometry in fitting with white dwarf photospheric models. We show this offset by comparing the uncorrected Gemini photometry with a sample of white dwarfs that have existing survey photometry (*UKIRT/VISTA*) in Figure A1. The linear offsets for *NIRI J* and *F2 J* were found to be -0.12 ± 0.04 mag and -0.05 ± 0.01 mag respectively when compared against *WFCAM J*. The linear offset for *K_s* was 0.15 ± 0.03 mag when compared against *VISTA K_s*. All offsets were calculated with a weighted average where higher weight was applied for brighter stars with lower uncertainty. The *VISTA* magnitudes were converted into the *MKO* system according to the literature, specifically Equations 16, 17, and 18 from [González-Fernández et al. \(2018\)](#). For the remaining bandpasses, *NIRI H*, *NIRI K*, and *F2 H*, there was not enough existing photometry to determine robust statistical offsets and what little data there was did not show significant discrepancy between the Gemini and *WFCAM* or *VISTA* photometry. Therefore, no linear offsets were applied to *NIRI H*, *NIRI K*, and *F2 H*.

There are also no significant trends in the zeropoint difference with calibrator brightness or colour, suggesting the photometric transformation and linearity correction is acceptable. However the systematic offset suggests there are unrecognised errors at the $\lesssim 10\%$ level in the *2MASS* to *MKO* photometric transformation and/or in the *NIRI/F2* linearity correction (the *2MASS* stars are brighter). The *2MASS* photometry is more uncertain than the survey photometry, and the linearity correction and system transformation is larger between *2MASS* and raw data, therefore we apply this offset to our measurements to put them onto the *MKO* system.

A.2. Photometric Data Quality Assessment

This section discusses a variety of factors which affect photometric data quality and evaluates how each factor affects the result. We will discuss observing conditions, image quality, and misalignment of coordinates in the output image of our observations with both *NIRI* and *F2*.

Of the 16 programmes observed using Gemini's North and South near-infrared imagers, eight of the largest programmes were poor weather programmes, characterised by observing condition constraints of Cloud Cover (CC) in the 70th, 80th, or "Any" percentiles. Each percentile corresponds to a percentage of time with a certain transparency based on long term data for Mauna Kea. Higher percentiles indicate the potential for more cloud coverage, and thus a greater loss of signal. Poor weather proposals also do not place any restriction on the desired Image Quality (IQ) and Water Vapour (WV) content. For the 215 targets observed by either Gemini's *NIRI* or *F2* instrument, 150 were observed in poor weather conditions, split between 69% (80/116) of *NIRI* observations and 88% (111/126) of *F2* observations. Majority of targets were observed in photometric conditions of IQ85 or better, indicating a FWHM of

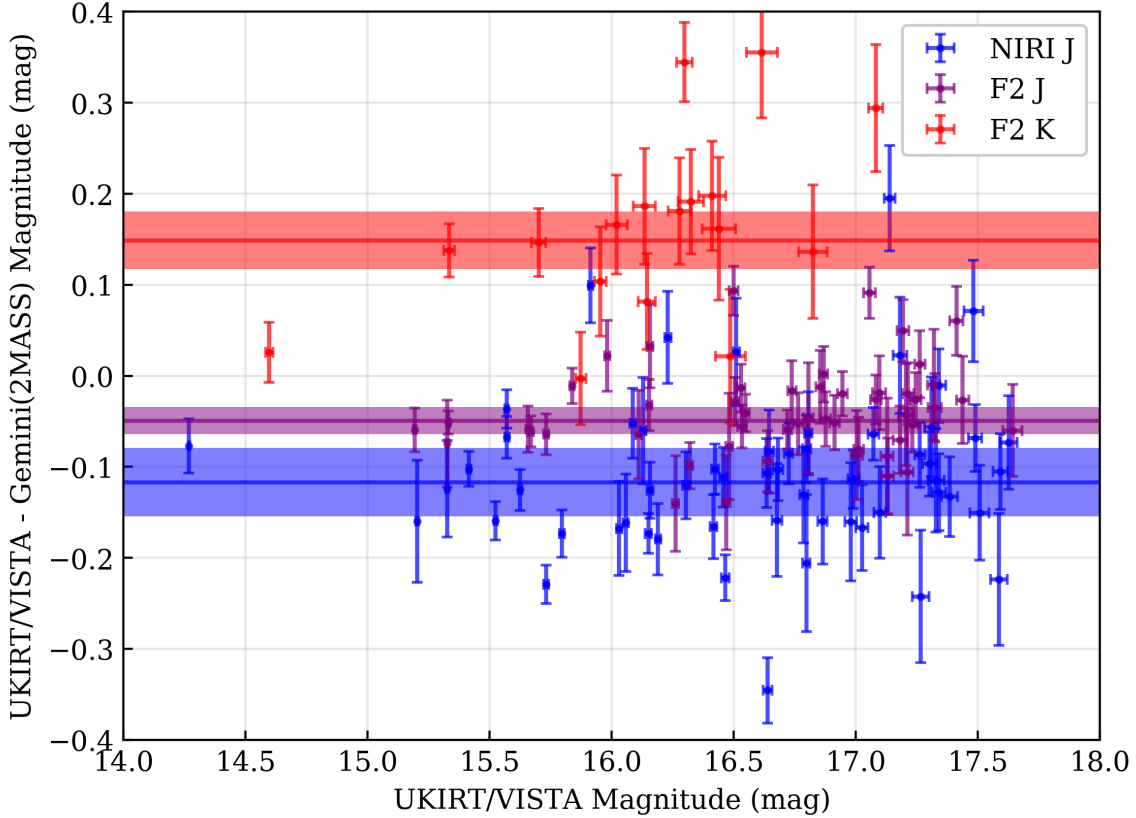


Figure A1. Comparison of the *2MASS*-calibrated Gemini photometry against *UKIRT* or *VISTA* survey photometry before linear correction. The applied offsets are shown as the solid horizontal lines and their errors are represented by the shaded regions. We found no offsets for *NIRI H*, *NIRI K*, and *F2 H*.

less than 0.85 arcseconds in the *J* bandpass. In Figure A2, all of the measured aperture photometry obtained from our algorithm is compared against the *2MASS* photometry of the reference stars. The figure does not show an appreciable systematic deviation with brightness between our photometry with *2MASS* in the *J*, *H*, *K* filters for either *NIRI* or *F2* instruments. We find that although the *2MASS* precision decreases for fainter stars, the primary contributing factor to the Gemini photometric precision is the number of reference stars used to calculate the Gemini photometry. Furthermore, even though the majority of the targets were observed under poor weather conditions, we find that the standard deviation in the difference between *2MASS* and our photometry to be $\lesssim 0.1$ mag. Since the field of view of *F2* is 6'x 6' circular field compared against the 120"x 120" square field of *NIRI*, there are often more reference stars in *F2* which improves both the accuracy and precision of the measured magnitudes. We conclude that the measured Gemini near-infrared photometry is reliable even if targets are observed under poor weather conditions as long as there are a good number of bright *2MASS* reference stars within the field of view.

The Image Quality (IQ) at Gemini Observatory is a percentile defined for a target at zenith with a profile FWHM below a wavelength-dependent maximum threshold. The percentile following the IQ represents the percentage of time when the FWHM is below a defined threshold and is linked to astronomical seeing⁴. Point sources of the reference stars and our target were modeled using *astropy's photutils*, where the aperture radius was designated as three times the median of the FWHM among all stars detected in the frame determined by the PSF fitting. Figure A3 shows that the median aperture radius in each IQ category increases with the deteriorating quality, independently recovering the desired result without directly referencing the observed IQ of each frame.

The World Coordinates System (WCS) of the output images for both *NIRI* and *F2* can be offset from the true WCS when compared against other public surveys. In all of the observations performed in this study, a unique linear

⁴ <https://www.gemini.edu/observing/telescopes-and-sites/sites/>

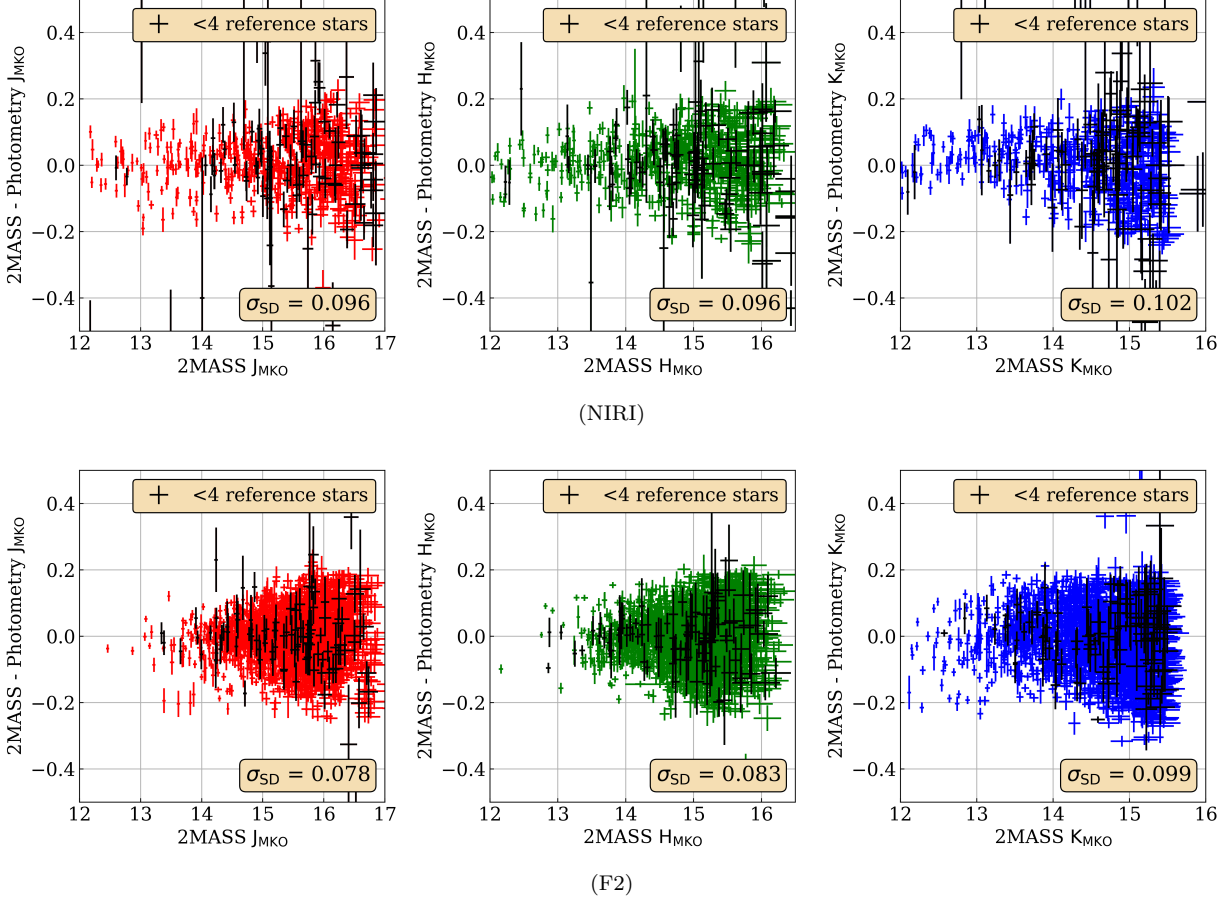


Figure A2. Gemini near-infrared photometry compared against *2MASS* *J*, *H*, *K* photometry of reference stars within the observed field of view. All photometry are converted into the *MKO* system for comparison. The standard deviation (σ_{SD}) values are displayed. There is a higher dispersion in the measured magnitudes for targets in fields where there are few reference stars (as shown by the black data points) and this effect is more pronounced for *NIRI* than for *F2* because of the smaller field of view. The number of reference stars used affects the quality of the photometry.

correction applied to each individual image was sufficient to correct for the WCS offset compared against *2MASS*. Some images show non-linear warping, but the effects are negligible compared to the linear offset. We find that the magnitude of the median offset for *NIRI* is typically $1.1''$, split into $-1.06''$ in the X-direction and $-0.33''$ in the Y-direction, while the median *F2* offset is $8.9''$, split into $5.47''$ in the X-direction and $7.07''$ in the Y-direction.

We also assess how the photometric zeropoint determined from *2MASS* reference stars is dependent on the observation conditions. Table A1 shows the median zeropoints in magnitude for each filter in the two Gemini instruments. For the set of observations performed in this study, the measured zeropoints are roughly comparable between CC50 and CC70, but decrease sharply with CC80, consistent with a greater loss of signal under those observing conditions.

B. ADDITIONAL TABLES AND FIGURES

The following section contains additional tables to supplement the main text. Table A2 presents all of the observed white dwarfs with *Spitzer*-confirmed infrared excess and Table A3 presents all of the white dwarfs observed by *Spitzer* without confirmed excess. For both of the tables, we refer to the Sample of origin as either “Sample E” or a subtraction between two other Samples, such that a white dwarf from “Sample A-B” originates from “Sample A” subtracted by “Sample B”. The photometry flags, “g” and “s”, show when the Gemini photometry is based on a low number of reference stars and when the *Spitzer* PRF residual is not clean. Additionally, the χ_J flag indicates that the excess is likely due to a companion rather than a dust disk. Both tables are published in their entirety in machine-readable

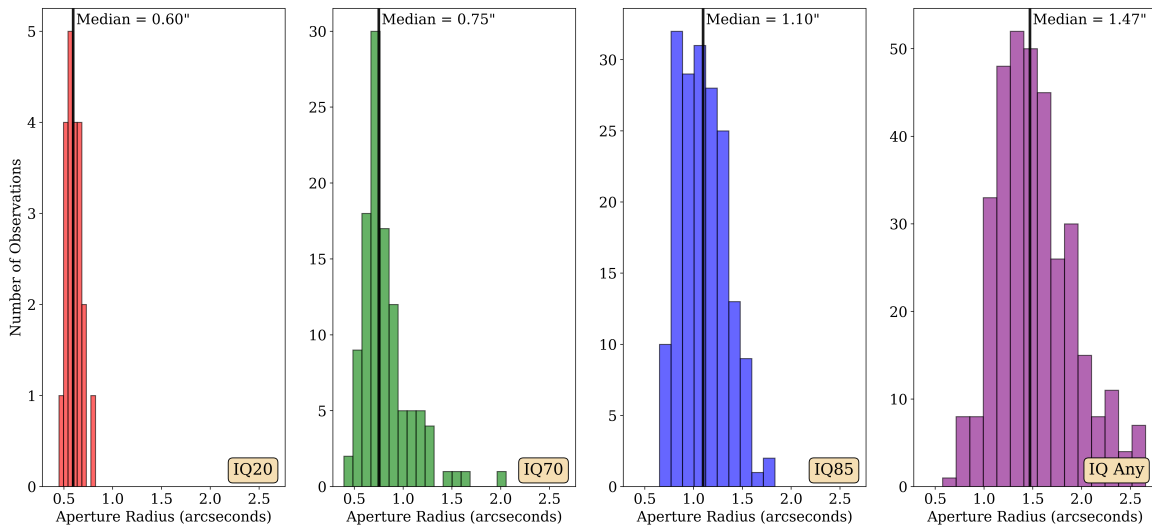


Figure A3. Relationship between aperture radius and Image Quality (IQ) based on the combined data from Gemini North’s *NIRI* and Gemini South’s *F2* in this study. The aperture radius is comparable between instruments and bandpasses, but the same trend can be observed for any individual filter and instrument. The solid black line indicates the median aperture radius for the indicated IQ classification. The aperture radius used in photometry of a target and its reference stars increases with deteriorating IQ.

Table A1. Mean photometric magnitude zeropoint relationship with observed cloud cover percentile for *NIRI* and *F2* programmes observed under CC50 to CC80 conditions. The zeropoint of individual frames depends also on the airmass and extinction correction. We have assumed an airmass of 1.0 for these values.

Instrument & Filter	CC50	CC70	CC80
	mag	mag	mag
<i>NIRI J</i>	23.66 ± 0.03	23.60 ± 0.03	23.17 ± 0.08
<i>NIRI H</i>	23.80 ± 0.08	23.67 ± 0.06	23.25 ± 0.10
<i>NIRI K</i>	23.12 ± 0.04	22.86 ± 0.22	22.58 ± 0.11
<i>F2 J</i>	24.84 ± 0.03	24.89 ± 0.02	24.71 ± 0.10
<i>F2 H</i>	25.13 ± 0.02	25.12 ± 0.03	25.02 ± 0.03
<i>F2 K_s</i>	24.71 ± 0.03	24.36 ± 0.02	24.25 ± 0.07

format⁵. The machine-readable versions include the DA white dwarf effective temperature and surface gravity fits from Gentile Fusillo et al. (2019).

⁵ Temporarily available at https://www.mso.anu.edu.au/~samlai/Table_A2_MR.csv and https://www.mso.anu.edu.au/~samlai/Table_A3_MR.csv

Table A2. Excess metrics of all observed white dwarfs with *Spitzer*-confirmed excess. *Spitzer* photometry is denoted by “*S_Ch1*” and “*S_Ch2*” for the two warm channels. Photometry flag, “g”, shows when the Gemini photometry is based on a low number of reference stars and subscripts, “U” and “V”, indicate where *UKIDSS* or *VISTA* photometry have been used in place of Gemini photometry for the near-infrared χ_i measurement. The χ_J flag indicates that the excess is likely due to a companion rather than a dust disk.

Name	<i>Gaia</i> RA (deg)	<i>Gaia</i> Dec (deg)	χ_i					$\Sigma_{\text{ch1-ch2}}$	Flags	Excess	Sample
			<i>J</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>S_Ch1</i>	<i>S_Ch2</i>				
GaiaJ0006+2858	1.644751	28.979653	0.47	1.99	7.21	25.84	33.56	5.32		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0007+1951	1.948442	19.856755	8.04	13.96	11.61	24.64	24.99	0.16	χ_J	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0050-0326	12.690832	-3.448819	1.56	2.08	1.90	9.00	11.18	1.34		FluxOnly	A-B
GaiaJ0052+4505	13.018277	45.092720	1.95	2.70	9.97	10.50	11.32	0.53		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0119-7655	19.778307	-76.917482	2.63		1.42	5.08	8.97	2.61		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0147+2329	26.978383	23.661691	0.33 _U	0.08	5.05	18.80	24.09	3.67	g	Colour+Flux	A-B
GaiaJ0205-7941	31.358532	-79.684393	0.75		2.20	8.35	13.09	3.21		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0234-0406	38.564633	-4.102482	-0.31	-0.40	1.74	9.36	13.75	3.01		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0257+5103	44.341677	51.062136	1.00	1.72	1.91	4.70	5.04	0.22		FluxOnly	C-D
GaiaJ0347+1624	56.902909	16.402432	1.87	3.62	5.94	10.50	16.98	4.53		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0412-4510	63.212121	-45.169625	2.55		8.58	8.74	11.03	1.58		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0433+2827	68.477686	28.457861	9.01	17.01	18.48	24.05	24.86	0.48	χ_J	FluxOnly	A-B
GaiaJ0455+5913	73.888221	59.222701	1.08	0.50	4.73	9.02	11.30	1.44		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0507+4541	76.848342	45.695697	3.68	-4.39	2.89	5.89	10.59	3.09	χ_J g	Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0510+2315	77.508735	23.261340	-0.22 _U	1.87	10.53 _U	13.69	19.71	4.18	g	Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0518+6753	79.605945	67.897284	0.24	6.98	7.05	13.33	18.18	3.32	g	Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0603+4518	90.786308	45.307728	0.87	1.25	3.79	7.83	8.78	0.64		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0644-0352	101.021923	-3.868553	0.16	1.37	4.77	20.47	27.58	4.91		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0649-7624	102.395218	-76.416141	0.95		4.95	17.60	23.87	4.24		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0701+2321	105.257690	23.365196	-0.03	0.49	-20.00	11.32	16.47	3.48		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0723+6301	110.823030	63.024058	-1.07	-1.15	0.39	9.08	13.80	3.14	g	Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0731+2417	112.793067	24.284180	-0.42	-0.55	7.18	18.62	24.85	4.29		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0747-0301	116.790374	-3.029560	0.79		2.17	7.70	12.74	3.36		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0751+1059	117.939950	10.992025	4.19	7.40	9.21	9.13	10.23	0.87	χ_J	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0802+5631	120.615318	56.532014	-0.49	-1.58	2.53	11.54	16.69	3.58		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0832+8149	128.140599	81.827178	1.14	-0.24	3.00	16.51	25.28	6.03		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0841-6511	130.439571	-65.195254	4.62		8.94	12.29	12.62	0.16	χ_J	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0844+3329	131.068177	33.487489	0.29 _U	-0.05	1.68	4.57	5.04	0.27	g	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ0854-7646	133.739982	-76.772772	-0.91		-0.74	4.94	9.79	3.17		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ0942-1950	145.500089	-19.839612	1.07		1.12	8.90	8.93	-0.12		FluxOnly	D-E
GaiaJ1030-1435	157.582665	-14.590177	1.24	4.12	3.88	11.11	11.45	0.14	g	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ1039-0325	159.922936	-3.426255	-1.25 _V	-1.50 _V	-1.70 _V	5.83	6.59	0.47	g	FluxOnly	D-E
GaiaJ1100-1350	165.221455	-13.839100	3.28	4.03	6.43	14.04	16.05	1.34	χ_J	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ1102-1653	165.510180	-16.890932	1.00		1.19	9.75	9.56	-0.17		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ1131-1438	172.772997	-14.635475	6.52	13.62	18.76	21.96	24.34	1.66	χ_J	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ1146-3636	176.618373	-36.605444	0.82		1.76	7.04	15.23	5.25		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ1155+2649	178.775677	26.823271	-0.35	-0.31	-1.16	4.68	6.66	1.28		FluxOnly	A-B
GaiaJ1319+6433	199.961921	64.552634				6.85	6.89	0.00		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ1322-1210	200.748077	-12.178491	0.49	1.01	0.09	3.61	4.91	0.88		FluxOnly	D-E
GaiaJ1343-0453	205.859499	-4.896320	0.07	-0.94	-0.61	-0.93	5.45	4.34		ColourOnly	C-D
GaiaJ1456+1704	224.171323	17.070933	-0.17	-0.83	-1.70	2.82	11.54	5.46		ColourOnly	E
GaiaJ1539-3910	234.821649	-39.180964	1.18		5.30	9.83	11.07	0.80		FluxOnly	C-D
GaiaJ1613+5521	243.319096	55.357181	0.30 _U	0.41	3.97 _U	7.86	11.30	2.38	g	FluxOnly	E

GaiaJ1622+5840	245.748880	58.674695	-0.54 _U	-1.04	2.99	12.95	19.43	4.53	g	Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ1728+2053	262.190381	20.894718	-0.03	-0.61	-0.46	5.90	9.52	2.45		FluxOnly	D-E
GaiaJ1731-1002	262.771413	-10.036248	19.14		40.69	23.73	22.75	-0.95	χ_J	FluxOnly	A-B
GaiaJ1814-7355	273.573350	-73.917388	0.93	1.46	5.28	24.57	32.05	5.19		Colour+Flux	A-B
GaiaJ1903+6035	285.833014	60.598328	-0.84	-1.58	1.65	14.28	21.24	4.86		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ1939+0932	294.979609	9.538653	-0.35			18.58	20.20	0.93		FluxOnly	A-B
GaiaJ1949+7007	297.446756	70.121605				13.01	14.89	1.49		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ2015+5531	303.861206	55.520607	0.31			5.77	12.14	4.24		Colour+Flux	A-B
GaiaJ2026+5925	306.588176	59.423365	11.00			16.52	14.78	-1.30	χ_J	FluxOnly	C-D
GaiaJ2048+1333	312.191021	13.565169	7.93	17.97	11.71	21.81	22.34	0.35	χ_J	FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ2100+2122	315.144710	21.382635	0.45	2.47	7.72	24.72	31.45	4.66		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ2155+7610	328.763388	76.169309	0.86	-0.35	2.30	7.34	12.54	3.50		Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ2205-4610	331.303399	-46.180975	1.02	0.77	1.43	4.88	5.78	0.57		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ2223-2510	335.993387	-25.178781	-0.81		1.34	12.92	20.01	4.89		Colour+Flux	B-C
GaiaJ2248-0642	342.166938	-6.712539	0.69	0.38	0.27	6.42	4.66	1.53		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ2253+0833	343.333391	8.561881	0.63	1.00	0.24	8.17	5.70	-1.73		FluxOnly	E
GaiaJ2306+2702	346.727225	27.035886	-1.51 _U	0.48	0.32	11.13	17.58	4.35	g	Colour+Flux	E
GaiaJ2330+2934	352.654068	29.577891	0.28 _U	-0.41	0.35	4.08	7.68	2.39	g	FluxOnly	A-B

^gGemini photometry flag. ^{χ_J} Stellar companion flag.

Table A3. Excess metrics of all white dwarfs observed with *Spitzer* without infrared excess. *Spitzer* photometry is denoted by “*S_Ch1*” and “*S_Ch2*” for the two warm channels. Photometry flags, “g” and “s”, show when the Gemini photometry is based on a low number of reference stars and when the *Spitzer* photometry is unreliable. Subscripts, “U” and “V”, indicate where *UKIDSS* or *VISTA* photometry have been used in place of Gemini photometry for the near-infrared χ_i measurement.

Name	<i>Gaia</i> RA (deg)	<i>Gaia</i> Dec (deg)	χ_i					$\Sigma_{\text{ch1-ch2}}$	Flags	Sample
			<i>J</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>S_Ch1</i>	<i>S_Ch2</i>			
GaiaJ0055+1135	13.892676	11.583566	-0.47	-0.77	0.79	-0.40	-2.56	-1.56		D-E
GaiaJ0104+3816	16.080300	38.281834	-0.20			-0.60	0.45	0.74		E
GaiaJ0107+2518	16.859511	25.309778	0.48	0.25	-0.45	0.35	2.24	1.30		D-E
GaiaJ0111+3136	17.987846	31.608898	1.13 _U	0.34	-1.89	1.16	1.31	0.08	g	C-D
GaiaJ0133+0816	23.347031	8.267714	-0.08	-0.66	-1.73	0.10	0.91	0.57		A-B
GaiaJ0151-2503	27.998720	-25.054374	-0.31	-1.85	2.31	-1.15	-1.78	-0.42	g	A-B
GaiaJ0206-2316	31.688827	-23.271080	0.44 _V	-0.52	0.22 _V	0.16	0.46	0.21	g	D-E
GaiaJ0256+2334	44.074243	23.573071	0.09 _U	-1.19	-0.56	0.58	1.17	0.41	g	D-E
GaiaJ0258-1048	44.590649	-10.807481	0.14		-0.32	-0.41	0.22	0.45		D-E
GaiaJ0323-5030	50.980972	-50.506115	0.44	0.54	-0.79	1.55	1.69	0.05		D-E
GaiaJ0328+2528	52.071458	25.481511	0.26	0.61	0.45	5.22	4.25	-0.69		D-E
GaiaJ0329-4738	52.363076	-47.644224	1.79	0.63	0.85	1.21	1.29	0.05		D-E
GaiaJ0329-5346	52.430831	-53.767221	0.72		-0.27	-0.40	-0.32	0.06		A-B
GaiaJ0346+1247	56.743468	12.791663	2.08 _U	0.73	-0.58	2.62	2.80	0.10	g	A-B
GaiaJ0348+5150	57.146356	51.838514	0.10	-0.20	0.42	0.74	0.46	-0.20		D-E
GaiaJ0359-2154	59.852820	-21.905147	0.98	-0.44	-1.25	-0.83	-0.33	0.37		D-E
GaiaJ0404+1502	61.146002	15.040344	1.51 _U	1.23	1.33 _U	1.47	2.98	1.05	g	E
GaiaJ0413-1235	63.438697	-12.594478	-0.34		-0.38	1.24	1.47	0.16		E
GaiaJ0421+1529	65.453585	15.487452	1.48	1.56	1.93	3.38	4.49	0.74		D-E
GaiaJ0424+0348	66.067091	3.814391	0.99	2.11	1.88	1.72	2.04	0.18		A-B
GaiaJ0428+3644	67.078300	36.739478	-0.12	-0.75	0.06	0.66	4.97	2.91		D-E
GaiaJ0518-0757	79.633570	-7.955206	1.00		-0.79	0.45	1.01	0.39		D-E
GaiaJ0528-6442	82.175796	-64.708519	0.64	1.61	3.04	4.16	4.13	-0.05		A-B
GaiaJ0531-4557	82.752770	-45.966459	1.04		-0.17	0.43	1.15	0.49		D-E
GaiaJ0536-3254	84.167638	-32.915170	0.03	-0.14	0.43	-0.86	-0.87	0.03		D-E
GaiaJ0609+3913	92.250011	39.222588	0.26	-0.14	0.39	2.10	1.93	-0.13		E
GaiaJ0620+3443	95.162010	34.718149	-0.22	-1.33	-0.61	-0.17	1.18	0.95		D-E
GaiaJ0639+6147	99.993800	61.789765	-2.36	0.57	-4.04	1.41	0.43	-0.70	g	E
GaiaJ0707+2651	106.979289	26.850791	0.53	0.88	0.58	0.11	1.80	1.18		C-D
GaiaJ0711+0928	107.932042	9.480980	-0.47			-0.33	2.31	1.84		E
GaiaJ0723+1617	110.750828	16.284668	0.34 _U	0.00	-0.20	-0.03	0.26	0.21	g	D-E
GaiaJ0831+7155	127.833370	71.927980	0.12	-1.74	-0.31	2.93	7.72	2.99		E
GaiaJ0834+5336	128.588430	53.604311	0.44	-1.69	-1.26	0.63	0.38	-0.19		A-B
GaiaJ0834-3450	128.732977	-34.847287	0.82	0.69	0.34	0.55	0.82	0.18	g	A-B
GaiaJ0842+3748	130.577991	37.816440	-0.45 _U	-1.76	0.50	0.80	1.79	0.68	g	C-D
GaiaJ0844-4408	131.232031	-44.142421	0.87	-0.35	0.59	0.56	0.98	0.29	g	A-B
GaiaJ0845+0653	131.407110	6.896151	-0.75	-0.94	-2.00	0.73	-0.12	-0.61		A-B
GaiaJ0845+6009	131.462714	60.153801				0.40	0.29	-0.07		D-E
GaiaJ0847-1859	131.871782	-18.997004	0.02		-0.59	-0.69	-1.29	-0.41		D-E
GaiaJ0902+3120	135.677408	31.345378	-0.18 _U	0.12 _U	-0.05 _U	0.66	0.89	0.15	g	D-E
GaiaJ0904+5935	136.246569	59.588664	-0.81 _U	-0.61	-0.89	2.10	2.51	0.30	g	A-B
GaiaJ0906+2836	136.611269	28.601867	-0.04	0.74	0.87	0.66	1.38	0.46		A-B
GaiaJ0936-3721	144.247925	-37.356694	0.81		-0.15	0.08	0.39	0.22		D-E
GaiaJ0940+1903	145.034226	19.065272	-0.34 _U	-0.26	-0.67	0.29	3.30	2.02	g	E

GaiaJ0947+2616	146.861039	26.267282	0.15 _U	0.02	-0.55	-1.15	-1.30	-0.13	g	A-B
GaiaJ0950+1837	147.529107	18.625792	-0.62	-0.90	-1.38	0.29	-0.52	-0.58		A-B
GaiaJ0959-1135	149.755167	-11.590022	-0.57	-0.21	-0.52	-0.47	-0.45	0.03		A-B
GaiaJ1001-0842	150.388500	-8.714054	1.83	1.15	0.01	0.67	1.21	0.36		B-C
GaiaJ1017-3236	154.368509	-32.602488	0.34		0.33	1.28	0.97	-0.22		A-B
GaiaJ1040+2848	160.218776	28.815718	0.13 _U	-1.48	-0.16	1.44	2.81	0.93	g	A-B
GaiaJ1104+2356	166.157916	23.944726	-0.39 _U	0.08	-0.47	0.65	2.02	0.95	g	A-B
GaiaJ1122+6711	170.566707	67.196167				0.61	1.11	0.36		A-B
GaiaJ1125+4223	171.423117	42.392897	0.34			4.81	3.28	-1.09		A-B
GaiaJ1136-3807	174.085921	-38.127104	0.93		0.10	2.96	4.22	0.83		C-D
GaiaJ1218+2648	184.690397	26.808761	-0.47 _U	1.41 _U	-1.18 _U	-0.05	0.19	0.17	g	D-E
GaiaJ1226-6612	186.674734	-66.205917	-0.36	-1.08	-0.73	0.26	0.38	0.09	g	A-B
GaiaJ1252+0410	193.063270	4.178632	-0.04	1.27	0.55	2.65	4.09	1.00		D-E
GaiaJ1257-4646	194.317310	-46.780228	1.16		0.62	0.11	0.70	0.41		A-B
GaiaJ1307-1017	196.950001	-10.299630	0.14	-0.66	-1.54	1.56	4.97	2.25		D-E
GaiaJ1312-3733	198.246288	-37.565289	1.24		1.02	1.62	1.35	-0.20		C-D
GaiaJ1350+2434	207.634955	24.570743	0.08	-0.87	-1.84	2.37	2.88	0.34		D-E
GaiaJ1354+0108	208.748953	1.138578	-0.01	0.33	0.28	1.14	2.31	0.81		A-B
GaiaJ1424+0444	216.107439	4.743526	-1.08	0.19	0.31	3.10	4.54	0.91		A-B
GaiaJ1429-2751	217.363636	-27.850811	1.63		1.24	0.08	0.88	0.55		D-E
GaiaJ1434+1508	218.528056	15.138231	-0.10 _U	-0.43	-3.13	0.85	1.51	0.46	g	A-B
GaiaJ1449-3029	222.388494	-30.488730	-1.42	-0.53	1.72	2.71	3.25	0.36		C-D
GaiaJ1450+4055	222.527477	40.925948	0.21 _U	1.55	1.66	1.35	3.20	1.29	g	E
GaiaJ1510-4143	227.720492	-41.732524	-0.21		0.34	0.52	1.59	0.74		A-B
GaiaJ1516-3545	229.088293	-35.761958	1.69		2.13	2.59	3.02	0.28		C-D
GaiaJ1518-1148	229.619733	-11.811128	1.14	1.18	-0.22	3.18	5.58	1.64		E
GaiaJ1528-0128	232.206188	-1.482796	0.08	-0.22	-0.20	0.31	-0.27	-0.41		A-B
GaiaJ1532+4231	233.192486	42.527308	0.72	1.01	1.34	-0.60	0.84	1.01	g	A-B
GaiaJ1539-7225	234.816900	-72.430662	1.66	-0.08	0.58	0.82	1.55	0.50		D-E
GaiaJ1546-0557	236.672823	-5.955513	1.48	1.76	2.73	3.12	6.80	2.55		D-E
GaiaJ1548+2451	237.229549	24.853610	0.08 _U	-0.82	0.85	1.73	0.79	-0.68	g	A-B
GaiaJ1612+1419	243.026837	14.318464	0.00 _U	0.05	-0.60	0.82	1.00	0.12	g	C-D
GaiaJ1632-2058	248.033976	-20.969509	0.68	0.69	0.33	1.24	2.13	0.63		A-B
GaiaJ1634+2812	248.546838	28.203436	-0.09	-0.13	-0.22	-0.35	-0.11	0.22		A-B
GaiaJ1635+1343	248.907987	13.733185	1.36	2.13	0.91	3.07	4.16	0.67		C-D
GaiaJ1702+5034	255.578581	50.582736	0.86			3.46	4.42	0.64		C-D
GaiaJ1706-7623	256.604920	-76.384867	0.58		0.59	2.41	2.54	0.08		A-B
GaiaJ1729+5010	262.443317	50.167743	0.54 _U	-1.38	2.90	-0.00	0.21	0.15	g	D-E
GaiaJ1745-1317	266.477577	-13.298303	2.36		3.69	1.69	1.69	-0.00		A-B
GaiaJ1755+3958	268.980820	39.978672	1.32		1.75	0.50	1.15	0.44		E
GaiaJ1820+7454	275.155315	74.900837				1.72	2.82	0.76		D-E
GaiaJ1832+7116	278.032579	71.280554				-1.38	-0.77	0.47		A-B
GaiaJ1849-0957	282.449430	-9.963228	0.17	0.36	0.06	0.97	1.65	0.48	g	A-B
GaiaJ1858-8432	284.586533	-84.543430	1.06		0.55	1.58	1.96	0.22		A-B
GaiaJ1932-5135	293.096890	-51.586555	-0.07			0.43	1.74	0.88		A-B
GaiaJ1949-3147	297.335513	-31.786286	1.40		1.14	1.06	0.52	-0.38		D-E
GaiaJ2012-5957	303.135383	-59.953679	-5.80		-13.33	-17.26	-18.81	-1.03		A-B
GaiaJ2044-7842	311.143154	-78.700513	0.96	2.32	1.55	3.42	5.53	1.38		E
GaiaJ2051-7538	312.792373	-75.640037	1.39 _V	-1.86	1.23 _V	0.98	1.81	0.57	g	D-E
GaiaJ2103-1729	315.966770	-17.490886	0.63		-0.59	1.58	1.50	-0.06		C-D

GaiaJ2105-4255	316.441572	-42.917937	0.78		0.16	2.15	3.65	0.99		A-B
GaiaJ2109+6507	317.468728	65.122863	-0.70	-1.07	1.39	-0.08	-0.31	-0.16		D-E
GaiaJ2110+1746	317.748107	17.775631	0.71 _U	0.38	0.02	2.55	3.31	0.51	g	A-B
GaiaJ2124+8556	321.082404	85.946076				-0.48	0.27	0.53		D-E
GaiaJ2152-7207	328.225832	-72.118972	0.57	-0.82	-0.20	-0.27	0.50	0.55		D-E
GaiaJ2202+2919	330.523145	29.318463	-0.73	-0.70	-0.40	0.61	1.41	0.56		C-D
GaiaJ2213-5020	333.340992	-50.334322	0.58	0.07	0.07	1.80	2.24	0.27		C-D
GaiaJ2225-1125	336.254028	-11.427853	0.62		-0.86	0.57	-1.25	-1.28		A-B
GaiaJ2233+8408	338.321327	84.137396	0.40	0.18	0.45	1.20	0.46	-0.52		D-E
GaiaJ2233-3832	338.475669	-38.544736	0.32		0.28	1.41	1.79	0.26		A-B
GaiaJ2243+2201	340.808435	22.024626	0.65 _U	-0.27	-0.44	-0.19	-0.00	0.14	g	A-B
GaiaJ2250+3231	342.601220	32.528655	-0.13	-2.18	0.04	-0.50	0.57	0.76		E
GaiaJ2255-4405	343.917598	-44.090303	1.18		0.58	2.66	5.17	1.69		A-B
GaiaJ2305+5125	346.382172	51.422359	-0.50	-1.44	1.56	0.14	1.82	1.18		A-B
GaiaJ2305+7543	346.485706	75.731470	-0.47	-1.06	0.46	1.61	2.12	0.31		A-B
GaiaJ2332-3301	353.045433	-33.018883	0.24	0.80	0.72	2.75	7.20	2.97		D-E
GaiaJ2333+0613	353.272373	6.219436	0.46	-0.22	1.98	-0.83	0.53	0.97		D-E
GaiaJ2349-0616	357.481725	-6.267962	0.03	-0.73	-0.30	1.34	1.16	-0.14		A-B
GaiaJ2352-0253	358.135752	-2.885370	0.05	-0.11	-0.06	0.72	4.76	2.75		D-E
GaiaJ0106+5604	16.585935	56.082154	-1.45			5.52	4.43	-0.78	s	C-D
GaiaJ1000+6811	150.168282	68.198294	2.57	3.17	8.67	13.11	14.92	1.11	s	E
GaiaJ1046+3745	161.748711	37.765655	1.20	1.32	5.85	12.14	17.93	3.79	s	E
GaiaJ1054+2203	163.542967	22.053685	3.34	2.44	4.22	13.44	13.76	0.16	χ_{JS}	A-B
GaiaJ1101+1741	165.403567	17.698863	2.31	3.24	4.33	8.92	8.17	-0.59	s	A-B
GaiaJ1102-4921	165.738528	-49.352985	-0.67	-1.57	-0.87	3.54	5.86	1.54	s	A-B
GaiaJ1520-0354	230.191394	-3.914617	-0.12	-0.70	-0.58	0.92	3.34	1.66	s	D-E
GaiaJ1941-1222	295.438744	-12.381575	1.84		1.04	1.74			s	E
GaiaJ2222-1542	335.645848	-15.703907	-0.16		0.70	4.60	5.75	0.75	s	D-E

^gGemini photometry flag. ^s*Spitzer* photometry flag. ^{χ_{JS}} Stellar companion flag.